BAKI

THE GRAPPLER

2

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

BAKI

THE GRAPPLER

KEISUKE ITAGAKI

PERFECT EDITION

2

BAKI THE GRAPPLER

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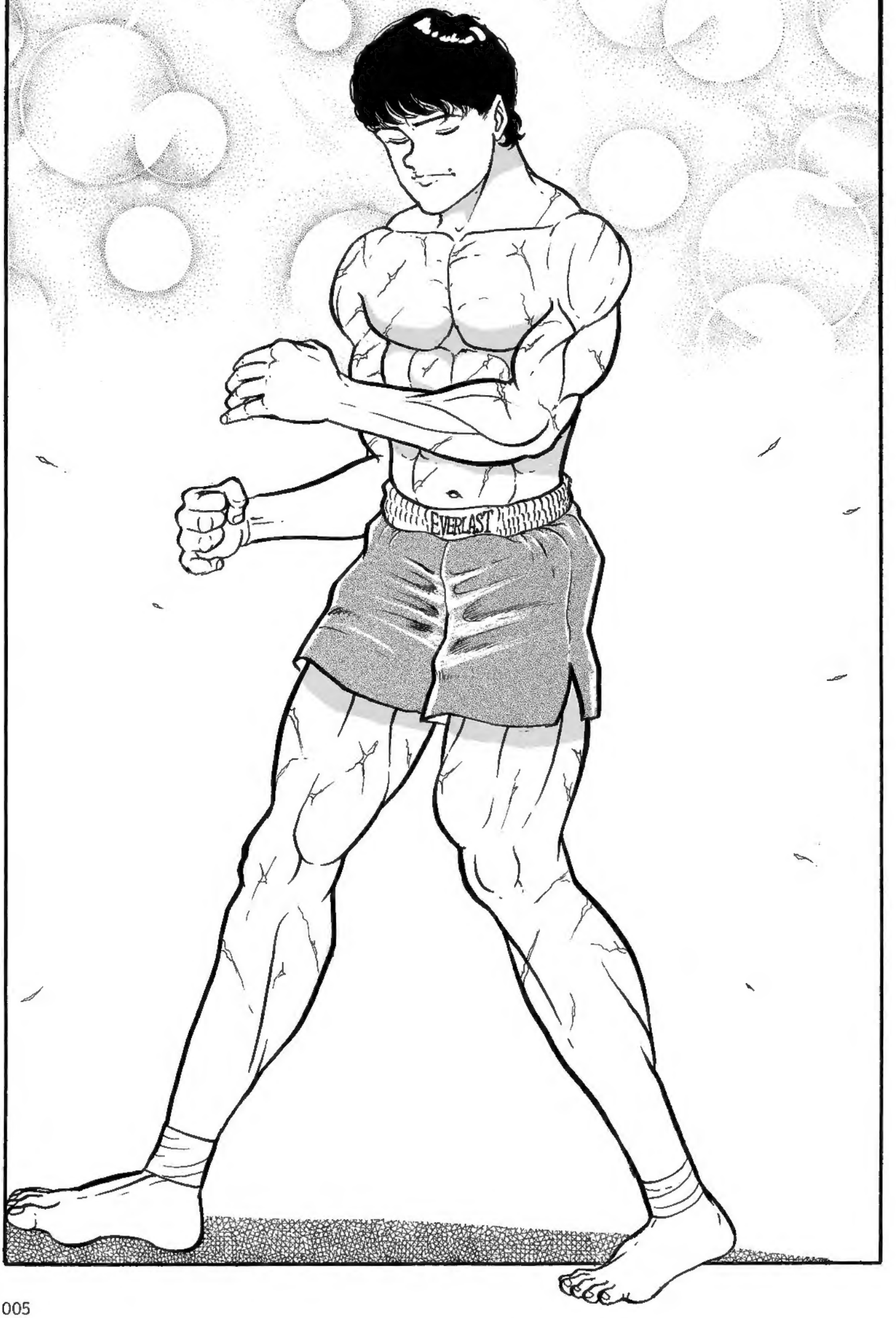
#16 Kato the Nuclear Warhead



HEY, DRIVER...

...WOULDN'T IT BE FASTER TO TAKE THE TRAIN?

IF WE'RE GOING TO *SUIDOBASHI* AT THIS HOUR...

BESIDES, YOUR FANS ARE WILLING TO WAIT FOR HOURS JUST TO SEE YOU.

NO SELF-RESPECTING WARRIOR WOULD HEAD TO THE BATTLEFIELD VIA *TRAIN.*

W...

BAKI GOT PICKED UP BY A LIMOUSINE?

WHAT'S GOING ON?

空手道 神心會館本部
SHINSHINKAI HEADQUARTERS
KARATE

空手道 神心會館本部
SHINSHINKAI HEADQUARTERS

TRAINING ROOM NO. 1

KATO HAS RETURNED AFTER THREE LONG YEARS.

YOU ALL REMEMBER HIM, RIGHT?

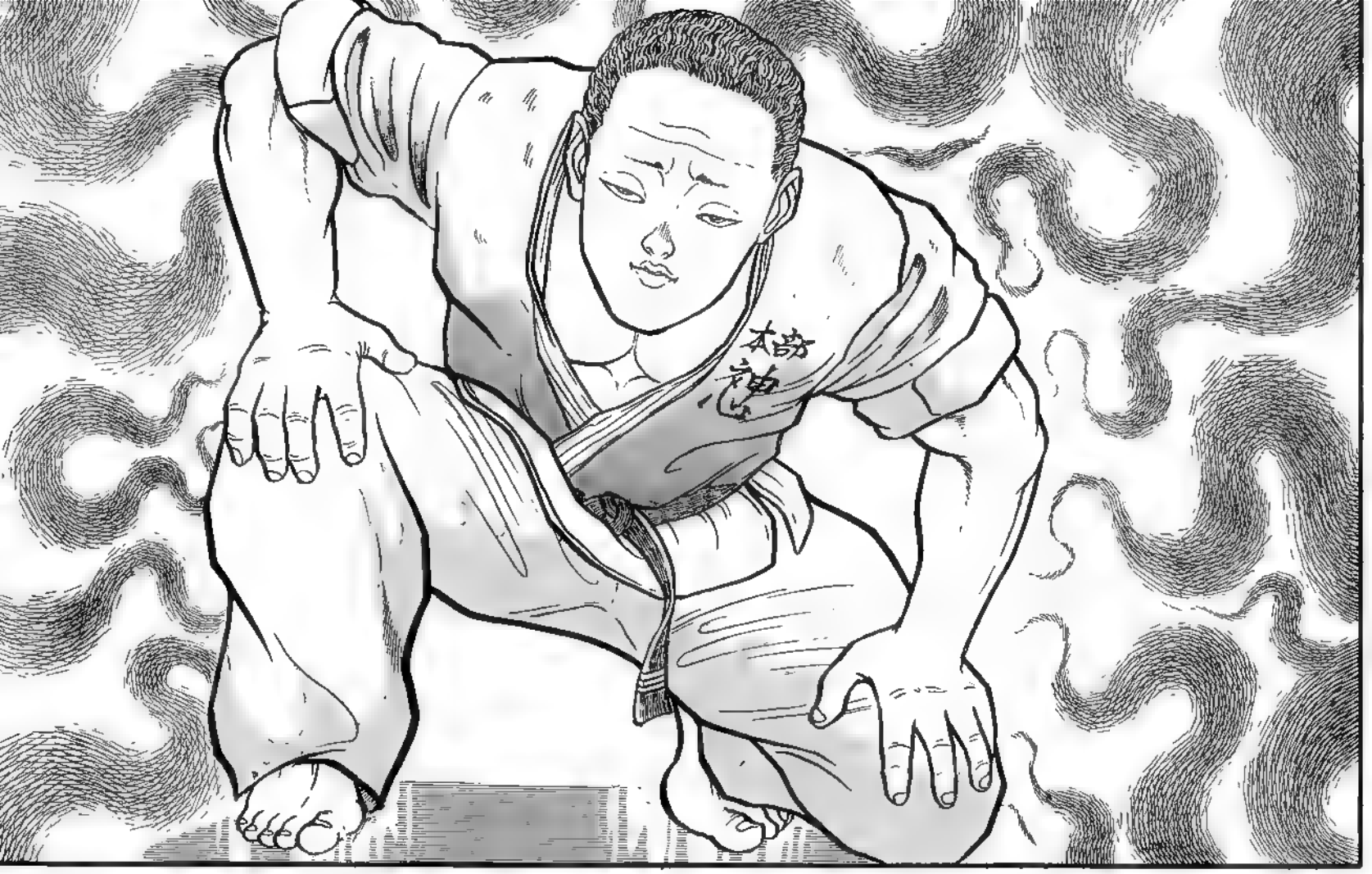
HE SAYS HE WAS WORKING FOR THE YAKUZA DURING THAT TIME.

SO, WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS TO PRACTICE WITH HIM?

OSU!

...AND WILL MARCH DOWN THE SACRED PATH OF KARATE ONCE AGAIN...

BUT TODAY, HE'S CHANGING HIS MINDSET...



TWCH...
MM-HMM... I SUPPOSE THIS IS SOMETHING AN INSTRUCTOR LIKE YOU SHOULD HANDLE.
TAKAGI, EH?

MAYBE HE CAN TEACH ME SOMETHING?

THE MAN KNOWN AS THE GREAT "NUCLEAR WARHEAD KATO" IS HERE.

...HE'D CONVENIENTLY GET A *STOMACH-ACHE.*

EVERY TIME IT WAS HIS TURN TO SPAR...

DO YOU REMEMBER TAKAGI, KATO?

OH, YOU BET I DO.

HMM... THEN, I'LL LEAVE THE RULES OF THIS MATCH UP TO YOU.

WELL... HAVE AT IT.

*LEFT SCROLL: KATORI DAIMYOJIN; RIGHT SCROLL: KAJIMA DAIMYOJIN

SHSHM...

DIDJA KNOW THAT WHEN YOU POKE YOUR HAND THROUGH AN *EYEBALL*, IT'S *LUKEWARM* INSIDE?

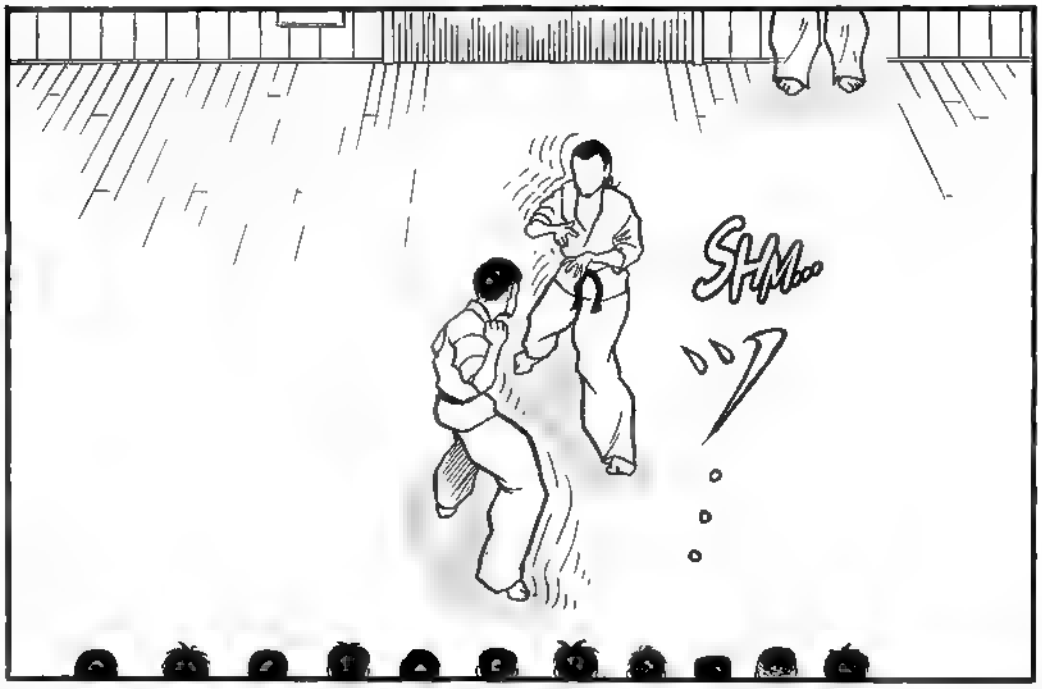
GRIMP

HEY, TAKAGI.

IF WE'RE PLAYING BY *YOUR* RULES, MAYBE I SHOULD SIT BACK DOWN...

OH WOW, YOU'RE *SO* DANGEROUS ...

THEY'RE CLOSING IN ON EACH OTHER...
THEY'RE BOTH GONNA MAKE THEIR MOVE!


SHM...

SWF

WHAPSH
KRAK

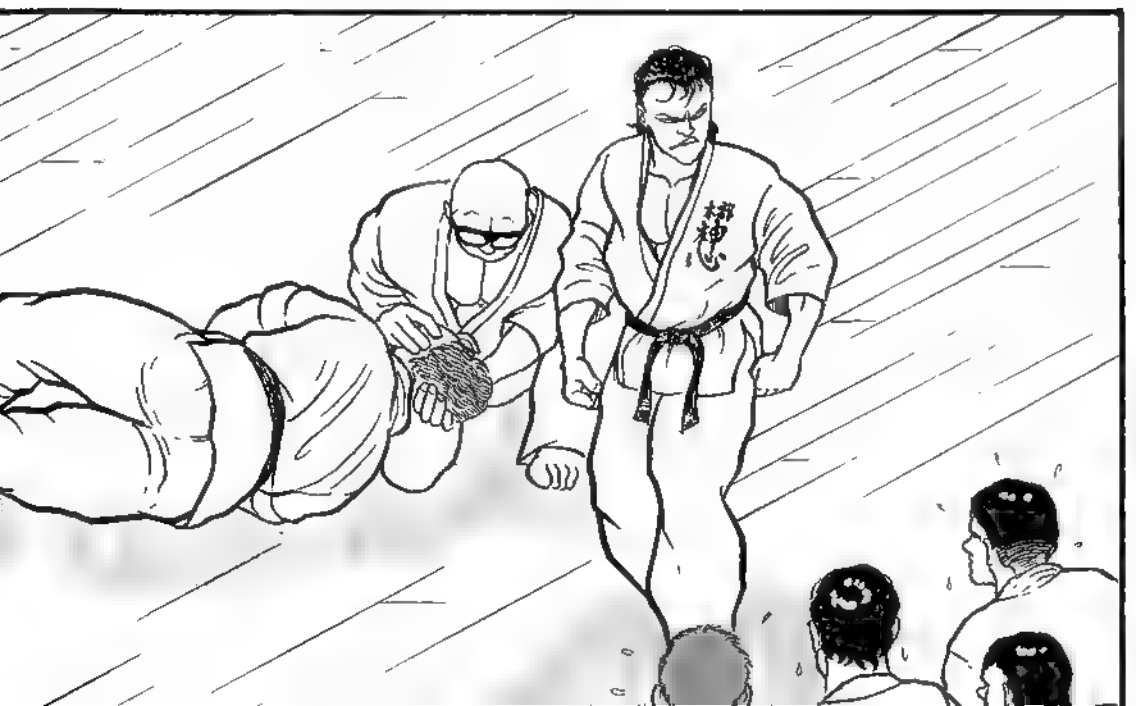
HUH ?!

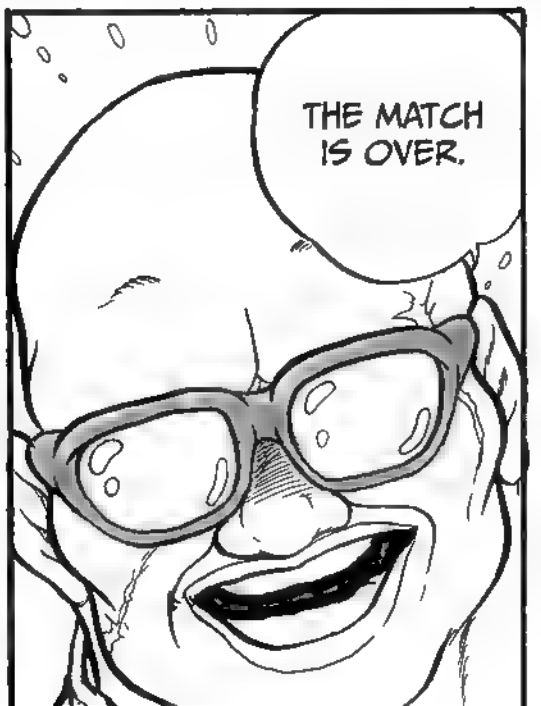
SLASH

HAH! THAT'S WHAT YOU GET, DUMBASS...

SPLAT

!




THE MATCH IS OVER.

DON'T LOOK SO DISAPPOINTED.

HEH, DID Y'ALL THINK I'D BE RUSTY BECAUSE I WAS GONE FOR SO LONG?

WHICH ONE OF YOU WANTS NEXT?

NOW THEN...

COME NOW...

DON'T BE SO...

...COCKY!

FWIP

HAVE SOME SELF-CONTROL.

OSU!

OSU!

OSU!

ONE OF YOU, CARRY TAKAGI OUT.

...

本部

AND JUST WHERE ARE YOU TAKING ME THIS TIME?

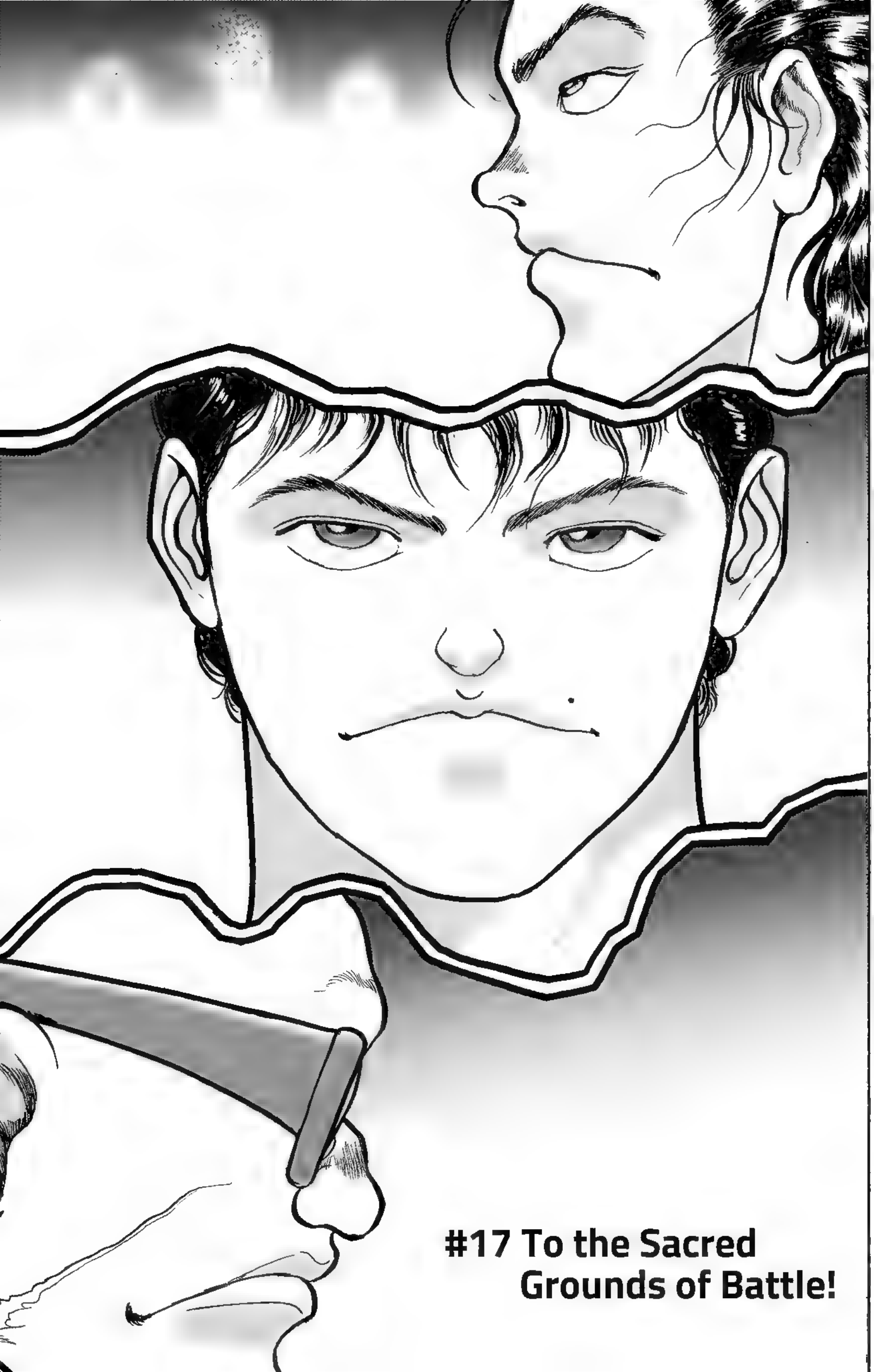
OSU!

A WONDER-LAND.

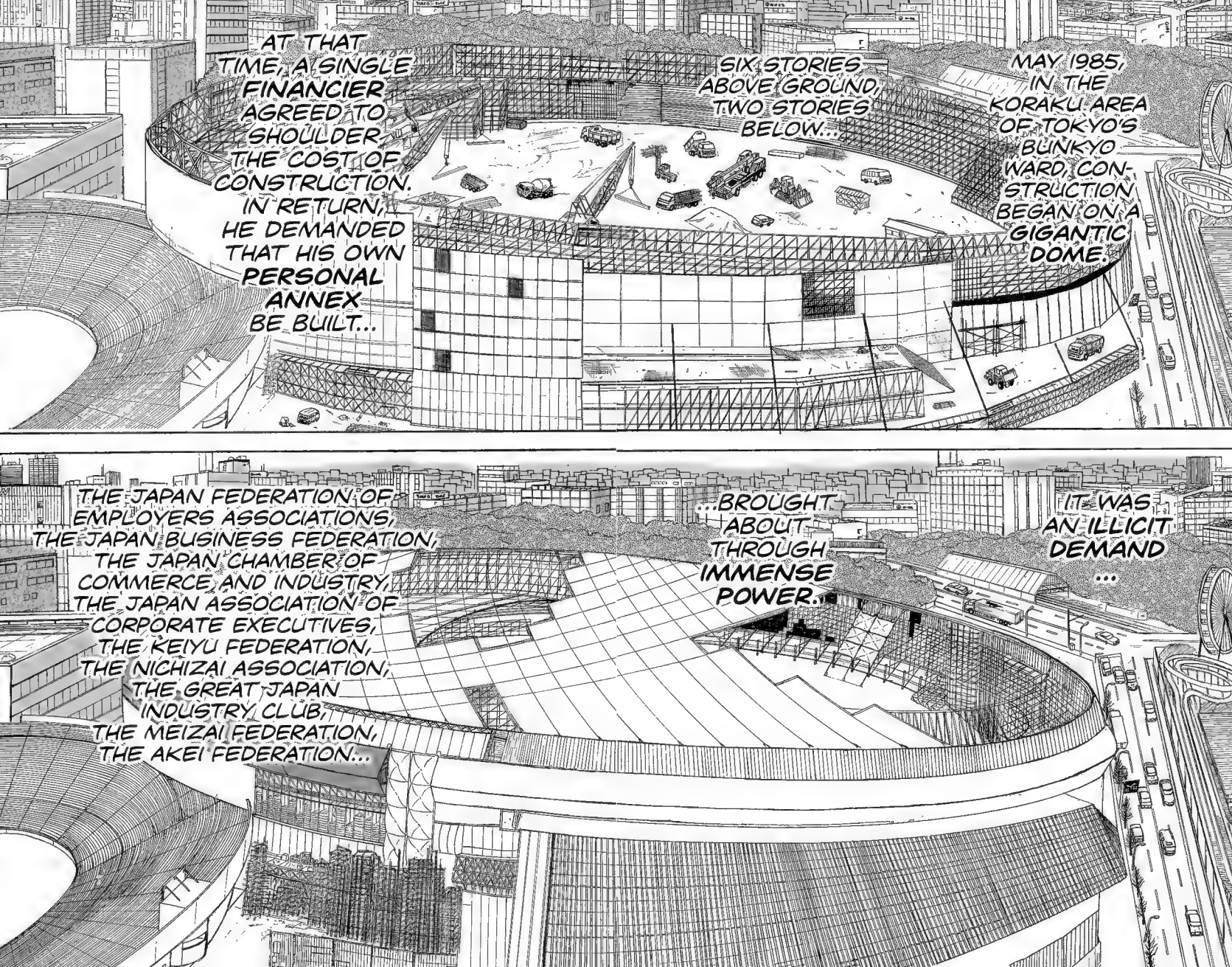
TO *SUIDOBASHI.*

OSU!

WHAT?



#17 To the Sacred Grounds of Battle!


MAY 1985, IN THE KORAKU AREA OF TOKYO'S BUNKYO WARD, CONSTRUCTION BEGAN ON A GIGANTIC DOME.
SIX STORIES ABOVE GROUND, TWO STORIES BELOW...
AT THAT TIME, A SINGLE FINANCIER AGREED TO SHOULDER THE COST OF CONSTRUCTION. IN RETURN, HE DEMANDED THAT HIS OWN PERSONAL ANNEX BE BUILT...
IT WAS AN ILLICIT DEMAND ...
...BROUGHT ABOUT THROUGH IMMENSE POWER.
THE JAPAN FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATIONS, THE JAPAN BUSINESS FEDERATION, THE JAPAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY, THE JAPAN ASSOCIATION OF CORPORATE EXECUTIVES, THE KEIYU FEDERATION, THE NICHIZAI ASSOCIATION, THE GREAT JAPAN INDUSTRY CLUB, THE MEIZAI FEDERATION, THE AKEI FEDERATION...

TOKYO DOME
BIG
DOPPO!
C'MON, REALLY!
DON'T TELL ME YOU JUST WANTED A LIL' PENNANT TO HANG IN YOUR ROOM?!
DIRECTOR!
THE TOKYO DOME? THIS IS YOUR IDEA OF A WONDER-LAND?

IT HAS BEEN TOO LONG, NOBLE ELDER!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU, DOPPO!!

HO HO HO HO!

DOPPO-OOO!!

TP TP...

TAMP

AAH...
PLEASE, NOT IN PUBLIC!
HO HOOO!
PLEASE STOP, NOBLE ELDER!
IT CAN'T BE HELPED. DIRECTOR OROCHI IS THE NOBLE ELDER'S IDOL...
SHUT YOUR MOUTHS!
YOU TWO JUST HURRY UP AND LEAD THE WAY!
YES-SIR!

WHO IN THE HELL IS THIS GEEZER?

23 ゲート GATE

HOW'D IT FEEL SEEING YOUR SCHOOL GET SO THOROUGHLY DISRESPECTED?

SAY, DOPPO.

THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT BAKI!

HAHA, BY THE TIME I REALIZED WHO HE WAS, BAKI HAD ALREADY WON THE TOURNAMENT.

IT'S JUST LIKE HIM TO ENTER A TOURNAMENT THE DAY BEFORE HIS MATCH.

TOKYO

...

WE'LL TAKE THE ELEVATOR FROM HERE.

...

YOU TWO CAN LEAVE.

SIR!

OHO, WHAT A SIGHT...

SAVE YOUR EXCITEMENT, DOPPO. ♡

I THOUGHT THE TOKYO DOME ONLY HAD TWO FLOORS UNDERGROUND...

THE SIXTH BASEMENT LEVEL?

THIS GOES STRAIGHT TO THE SIXTH BASEMENT LEVEL.

RIGHT, DOPPO?

MY GENERATION WILL BE THE LAST TO PULL BACKDOOR ANTICS LIKE THIS.

DING

PSHH

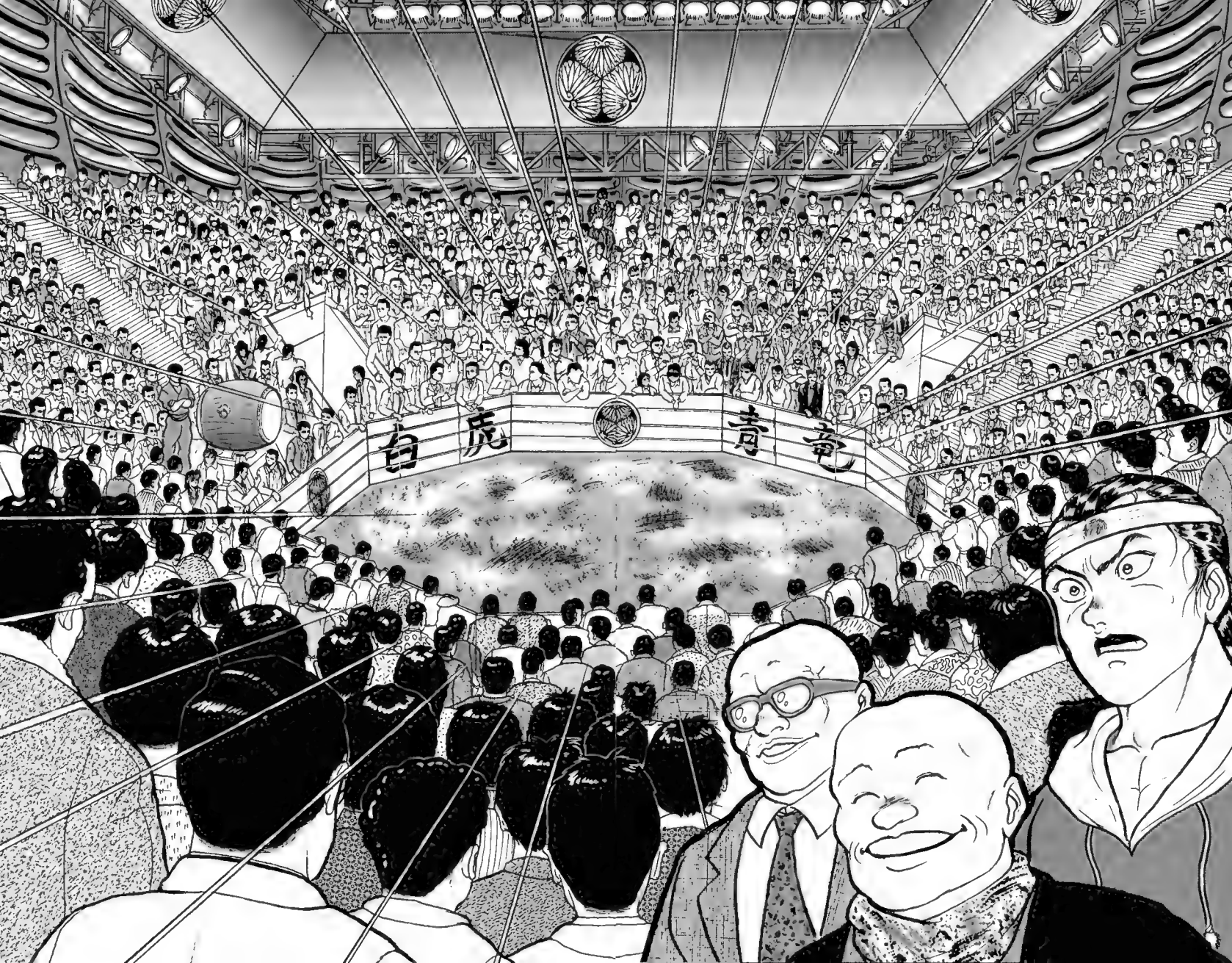
THIS PLACE HAS PERSISTED FOR THREE-HUNDRED LONG YEARS, EVER SINCE THE TOKUGAWA ERA ...

GULP...

...IN ITS...

THESE ARE THE SACRED GROUNDS OF BATTLE...

...MODERN FORM!!!


白虎
青竜

*SIGN: WHITE TIGER

*SIGN: BLUE DRAGON

U-UNDERNEATH THE TOKYO DOME...

...IS A FIGHTING ARENA ...?

GOODNESS GRACIOUS...

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT, DOPPO?

I WISH I COULD'VE SEEN *YOU* FIGHT HERE!

BOMF BOMF BOMF

THIS UNDERGROUND ARENA IS A FAR CRY FROM THE ONE I FOUGHT IN AT KORAKUEN STADIUM.

...WE ONLY INVITE SELECTED SPECTATORS THROUGH SPECIFIC CHANNELS. ONES WHO CAN KEEP SECRETS.

OF COURSE, SINCE THIS ARENA DOESN'T EXIST OFFICIALLY...

O...

...HAS BORNE FRUIT HERE.

THE HEART OF MY ANCESTORS' LOVE FOR THE MARTIAL ARTS...

...OLD MAN, JUST WHO ARE YOU, REALLY?

OH, DID DOPPO NOT TELL YOU ALL ABOUT ME?

THE ONE WHO FIRST BUILT AN ARENA HERE IN KORAKUEN THREE-HUNDRED YEARS AGO WAS MY...

...

GREAT-GREAT-GREAT...

...

...

GREAT-GREAT-GREAT... HUH?

...

GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT-GREAT,-GREAT...

...ANCESTOR FROM ELEVEN GENERATIONS AGO, TOKUGAWA MITSUKUNI, A.K.A....
...MITO KOMON!!!
THIS IS A DREAM!
I MUST BE DREAMING !!!
THOOOOOM
LOOKS LIKE THE SEMIFINALS ARE STARTING.

AND IN THE WHITE TIGER CORNER, THE PRO WRESTLER, KOHEI KUZUMI!!!

IN THE BLUE DRAGON CORNER, IT'S THE SUMO WRESTLER, RYUKONGO!!!

ウォー

Woo

THAT'S AN ACTIVE YOKOZUNA AND A PRO-WRESTLING SUPERSTAR, RIGHT?!

TH-THERE'S NO WAY!

KRAAAH

SWISH

IT REALLY IS A WONDER-LAND...

...IT'S JUST THE *UNDERCARD* FOR BAKI'S FIGHT.

THE THING ABOUT THIS MATCH IS...

DRESSING ROOM
DRESSING ROOM
ビビ
SHSHRIIP!!

#18 The Tokyo Dome's Underground Arena

THIS IS WHEN THE SENGOKU ERA CAME TO AN END.
1615, THE SUMMER SIEGE OF OSAKA, WHEN THE TOYOTOMI FAMILY FELL...
...AND GAVE THE ORDER TO MITSUKUNI, THE SON OF HIS LOYAL RETAINER YORIFUSA.
CONCERNED ABOUT PUBLIC DISORDER, THE CURRENT SHOGUN, TOKUGAWA IEMITSU, ESTABLISHED A PLACE FOR FIGHTERS TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES, THE MARTIAL ARTS ARENA...
...THAT EVEN WAS AKIN TO THE ARRIVAL OF WINTER.
FOR THE MARTIAL ARTISTS, WHO COULD ONLY EXPRESS THEMSELVES THROUGH BATTLE...
...BLOODY INCIDENTS SHARPLY ROSE ACROSS THE LAND.
AS A NATURAL RESULT...

PRESENT DAY, 1992.

MY ANCESTOR, MITSUKUNI—MITO KOMON—BUILT THAT FIGHTING ARENA AT THE LOCATION OF HIS VILLA, SO RIGHT HERE IN KORAKUEN.

*THE THEME SONG TO A TV SHOW BASED ON MITO KOMON'S LIFE.

ALL OF HIS TRAVELS...

FOR EVERY EASE IN LIIIIFE, THERE'S HARDSHIP TOOOO.*

OH, YOU WATCH THE TV SHOW TOO?

I DON'T WATCH THAT SHIT.

IF YOUR GRANDDAD WAS MITO KOMON...

B-BUT...

WHEN DUELING BECAME ILLEGAL IN 1889...

...WERE ACTUALLY DONE IN ORDER TO SCOUT OUT MARTIAL ARTISTS.

Act Relating to Illegal Dueling

[December 30 1889, Law No.

[Any person who has challenged or accepted a duel]

Article 1: Any person who has challenged accepted a duel shall face imprisonment hard labor for no less th no more than two year to 100 yen.

[Any person who h

Article 2: Any pers a duel shall face im with hard labor for years and no more t five years with an ad fine of 20 to 200 yen.

...THIS MECCA OF BATTLE WAS PUSHED TO THE VERGE OF EXTINCTION...

MY FATHER WAS ALMOST ASSASSINATED OVER THAT WHOLE BUSINESS, BUT HE NEVER BACKED DOWN.

...BUT MY FATHER, MITSUNOBU, CONVINCED THE POWERS-THAT-BE THAT THE ARENA COULD EXIST OUTSIDE THE LAW. ALL IN THE INTEREST OF PRESERVING PUBLIC ORDER, OF COURSE.

THAT'S WHY WE'VE MAINTAINED THIS TRADITION FOR SO LONG!

TOKYO D

MY FATHER, GRANDFATHER, GREAT-GRAND-FATHER, AND ALL MY ANCESTORS BEFORE THEM ALL LOVED COMPETITIVE FIGHTING.

EVEN HERE, UNDERNEATH THE TOKYO DOME!!!

WHITE TIGER (WEST) TOP PRO WRESTLER KOHEI KUZUMI

BLUE DRAGON (EAST) SUMO YOKOZUNA RYUKONGO

...ARE REALLY FIGHTING IN FRONT OF A CROWD OF LESS THAN A THOUSAND, IN A MIXED-DISCIPLINE MARTIAL ARTS MATCH...

EVEN WITH ALL THAT, I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE A YOKOZUNA AND A WRESTLING HEADLINER...

...BECAUSE OUR RULES ARE TOO DANGEROUS.

WE CAN'T RUN THESE MATCHES IN ANY OFFICIAL CAPACITY...

...ANYTHING IS ALLOWED.

ASIDE FROM THE USE OF WEAPONS...

CHOKING IS ALLOWED!

GRAB

WAIT, *ANYTHING* IS ALLOWED?

WHIRL

...?

GROIN SHOTS ARE ALLOWED!

...

BITING IS ALLOWED!

CHOMP

SUMO

THAT'S WHY THESE FIGHTS...

WE DON'T EVEN HAVE A REFEREE...

...ARE FAIR 'N SQUARE.

THUMP

KA-BAM
WAAH

GWOO
KRAKOW

KAH

DURING THAT INITIAL CHARGE, KUZUMI TOOK A HIT TO THE GROIN.

...THAT ENDED IT...?

TH...

HAH! HE'S A STRONG 'UN.

"GRAB YOUR OPPONENT'S LOINCLOTH LIKE YOU'RE SQUEEZING THEIR BALLS."

THE SUMO HAVE A SAYING:

THAT SON OF A BITCH TOOK THE PHRASE LITERALLY.

WHAT DO YOU SAY NOW, KATO?

THESE ARE THE PEOPLE THAT BAKI REIGNS OVER!

DRESSING ROOM

RIP

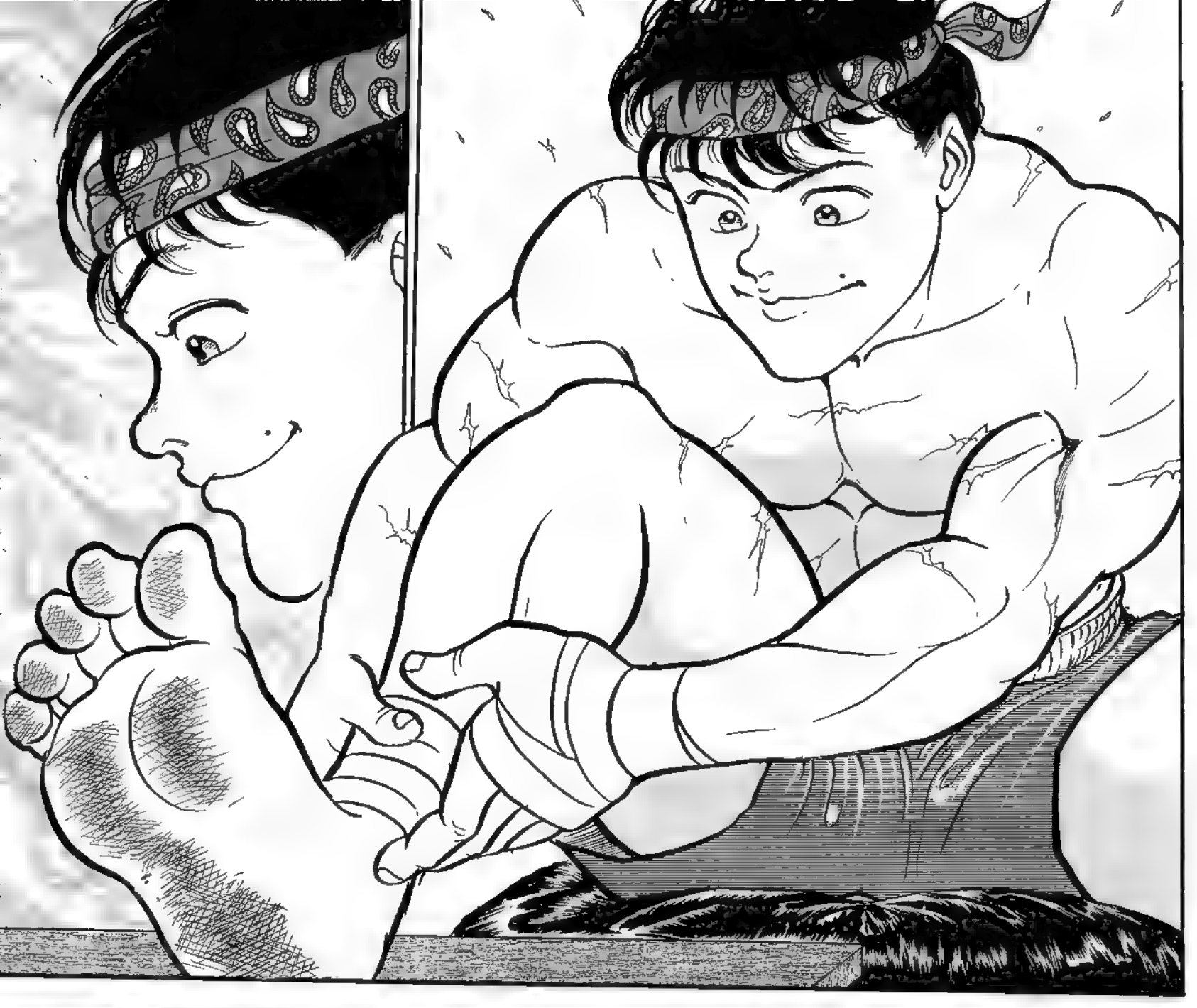
SHR SHR

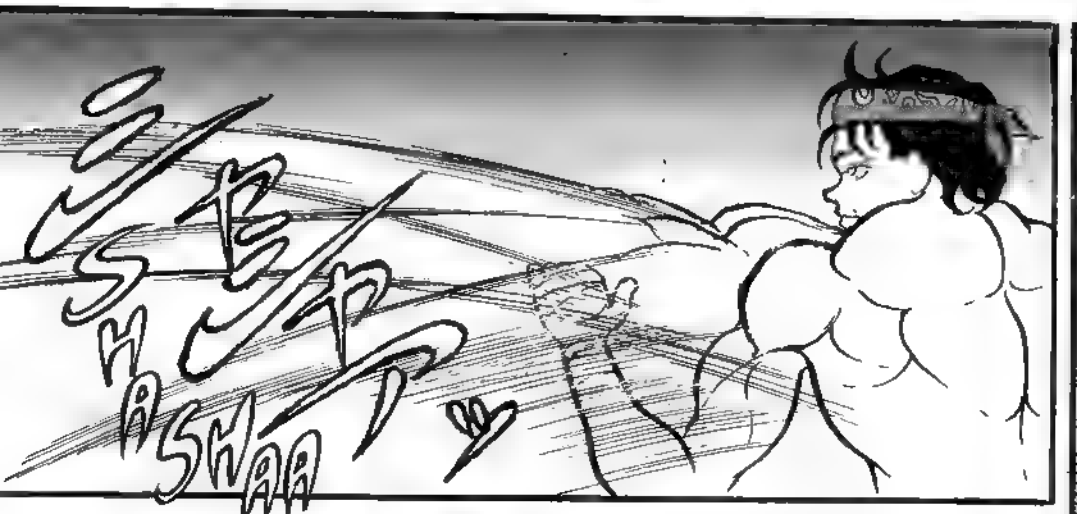
SHRIP

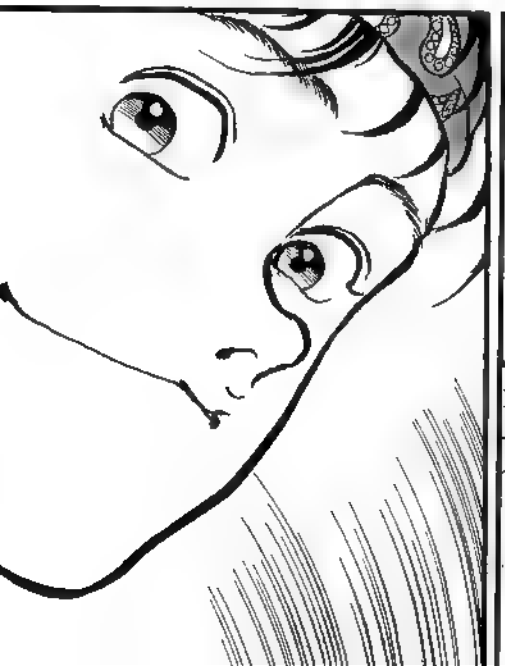
SH-SHRT

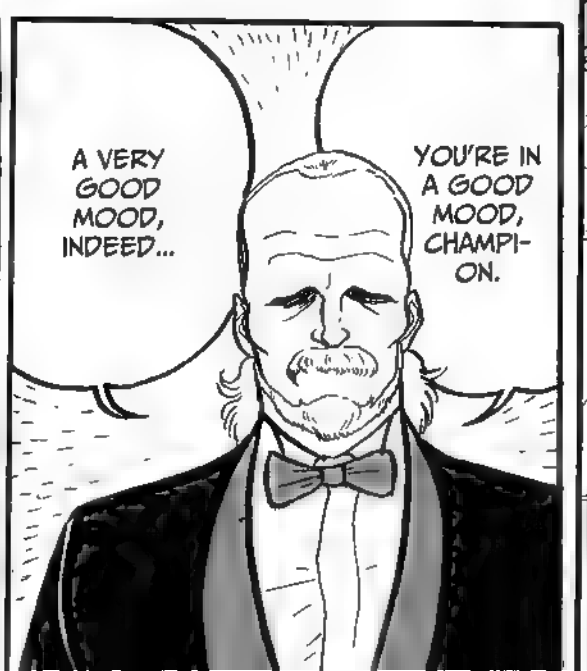
GRP

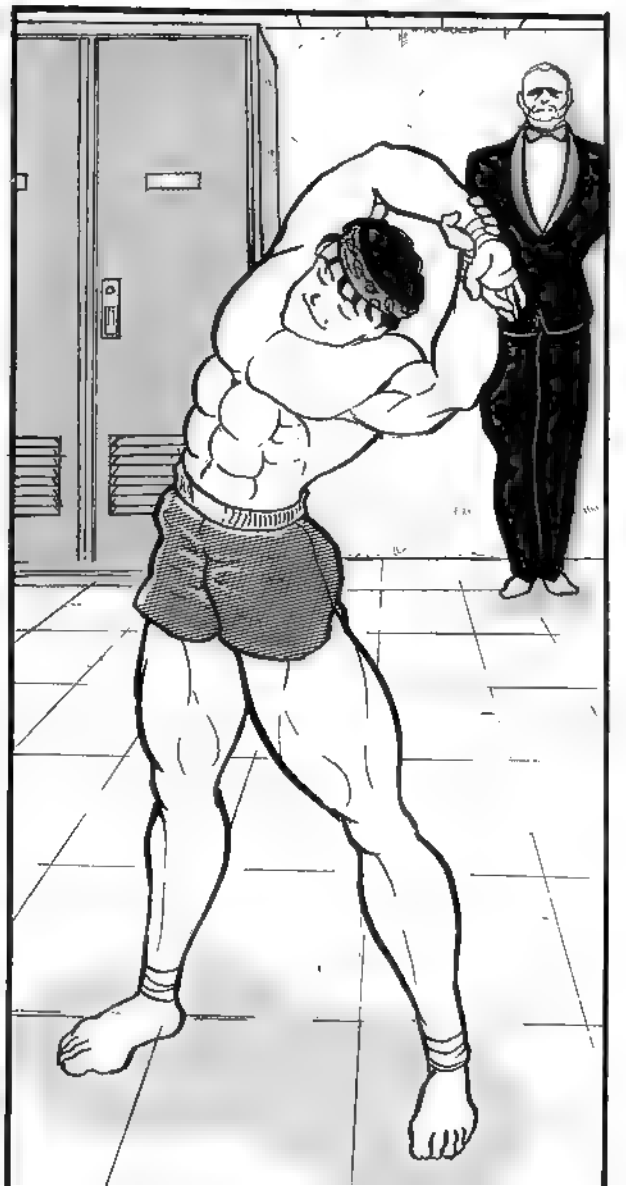
SHRT




SE HA SHAA




A VERY GOOD MOOD, INDEED...
YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD, CHAMPI-ON.



...I GET THIS ITCH OVER MY WHOLE BODY...

BUT BY THE TIME I FINISH TAPING UP...

I CAN'T SAY WHY.

...AND I GET THE URGE TO TEAR MY OPPONENT *LIMB FROM LIMB.*

...AND HE SAID EXACTLY THE SAME THING YOU JUST DID.

I ATTENDED TO YOUR OPPONENT, SHINOGI, NOT TOO LONG AGO, CHAMPION...

WHAT AN INTERESTING QUIRK...

WOULD YOU MIND GETTING OUT OF MY WAY?

*UNIFORM: "METSUDO" (WAY OF DESTRUCTION)

DON'T YOU KNOW? IN THIS HALLWAY, THE ***WEAK*** YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY TO THE ***STRONG.*** ♡

BAM
THE GRAPPLER
BAM
THE GRAPPLER

IT'S FINALLY TIME FOR THE MAIN EVENT.

THUMP THUMP

IN THE THREE-HUNDRED YEAR HISTORY OF THE KORAKU FIGHTING ARENA...

...HE IS OUR YOUNGEST...

#19 Baki the Champion And the Challenger!

...AND MOST EXCITING CHAMPION EVER!

YEAH!!!
BAAAKI!!
BAAAKI!
BAAAKI!!
OOOH, HERE HE COMES !!!
#19 Baki the Champion And the Challenger!

WOW, WHO KNEW THAT LIL' S.O.B WAS SO POPULAR.
HE IS THE CHAMP, AFTER ALL.
SEEMS LIKE HIS MATCHES ARE ALWAYS GOOD ONES.
THUUUMP
THUUUMP
THUUUMP
WOOOOOO
青
竜

HOLY CRAP, THEY'RE TREATIN' HIM LIKE HE'S SOME KINDA *GURU.*

WELL, NOT ONLY IS HE THE CHAMP, BUT HE ALWAYS PUTS ON AN AMAZING SHOW.

THAT DAMN BAKI HAS THE AURA...

THE TOKYO DOME UNDER-GROUND ARENA...

...IS TRULY A SACRED GROUND WHERE FIRST-CLASS MARTIAL ARTISTS OF ALL DISCIPLINES GATHER.

SOME PRACTICE WRESTLING, SOME USE JUDO, SOME DO KARATE...

THEY PUT THEMSELVES THROUGH GRUELING TRAINING IN THEIR RESPECTIVE FIELDS OF FIGHTING AND COME HERE TO COMPETE.

YES.

NO STYLE?

...WRESTLING, OR EVEN JUDO.

IT ISN'T KARATE, KICK-BOXING...

...BAKI IS THE ONLY ONE *WITHOUT* A SET STYLE.

AND AMONG THOSE SPECIAL-ISTS...

SHU!

SHU!

...BAKI HANMA-STYLE MARTIAL ARTS!!

IF I HAD TO CALL IT ANY-THING, I'D NAME IT...

...RAISES THE FANS' EXPECTATIONS AND CAPTURES THEIR HEARTS.

THAT COMPLETELY UNRESTRAINED FIGHTING STYLE...

YOU MEAN YOU STARTED KARATE LAST MONTH?

WELL... YEAH.

I GUESS... SINCE LAST MONTH.

HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN PRACTICING KARATE?

WE PRACTICE A *KILLING ART* THAT'S BEEN PERFECTED OVER FIVE-HUNDRED YEARS! I'M NOT GOING TO BE LUMPED IN WITH SOME BRAWLER WHO'S JUST IMPROVISING!

WHAT'S THE MATTER, KID?

QUIT MESSING WITH ME!

PSSH!

HO HO HO! FOR SOMEONE WHO ACTS LIKE A PUNK, YOU SURE DO SOUND OLD-FASHIONED RIGHT NOW.
WHAT ?!
THAT ASPECT OF BAKI'S FIGHTING IS PRECISELY WHAT MAKES IT SO FUN!
"THE TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS WE PRACTICE AREN'T SOME GAME!" THAT IS EXACTLY IT.
THERE'S A KID WITHOUT A FIGHTING STYLE, REIGNING SUPREME...
HYOU!
...THAT'S WHY BAKI'S MATCHES ALWAYS BRING THE HEAT!
SWISH

THIS FIGHTER IS PLENTY OF TROUBLE IN HIS OWN RIGHT...

SO WHO THE HELL IS BAKI FACING TODAY?

HE'S LATE THOUGH. THAT *SHINOGI* ...

I FIGURED YOU WOULD KNOW, DOPPO.

YES.

THAT'S HIM— *KOSHO SHINOGI*!

...JUST SAY *SHINOGI*, NOBLE ELDER?!

DID YOU...

武道
鎬

RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL

HEY.

IT'S DARK AND I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

WHERE ARE YOU, HAYASHI ...?

AH... AAH... URR...

RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL RATTL

WHAT'S THAT...?

IN THIS HALLWAY, THE *WEAK* YIELD THE RIGHT OF WAY TO THE *STRONG*...

DON'T YOU KNOW?

...MIND GETTING OUT OF MY WAY?

ARE YOU STUPID ?

TALKIN' TRASH TO A WRESTLER?

KUNK

DMF
YOU...
SHF

SHWAP
SWSH

GWSH

RIGHT NOW, I'M PULLING OUT THE NERVES THAT CONTROL YOUR *EYES.*

WELL? CAN YOU FEEL IT...?

LIKE *THIS!*

...

...SO I WILL NEED TO CUT THE CORD.

YOU ARE A VERY SHORT-TEMPERED AND DANGEROUS PERSON...

SHWWW

HUH?!

WHO TURNED OFF THE LIGHTS?

HUH?

WHA?

I-I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING!

HEY !

C-CORD-CUTTER?

KOSHO SHINOGI.

NICKNAME: "CORD-CUTTER SHINOGI."

THERE ARE A COUNTLESS NUMBER OF *CORDS* WITHIN THE HUMAN BODY!

HAH!

ONE GOOD CHOP CAN TAKE OUT A MEASLY TENDON OR VEIN!

VEINS, LYMPHATIC VESSELS, TENDONS, NERVES! HIS TECHNIQUES *SEVER* THOSE CORDS!

YES, BUT *SHINOGI GOES FURTHER.* HE *TEARS THEM OUT* WITH HIS FINGERS.

I WANNA SEE THIS INFAMOUS CORD-CUTTER IN ACTION!

LET'S SEE WHAT HE'S GOT.

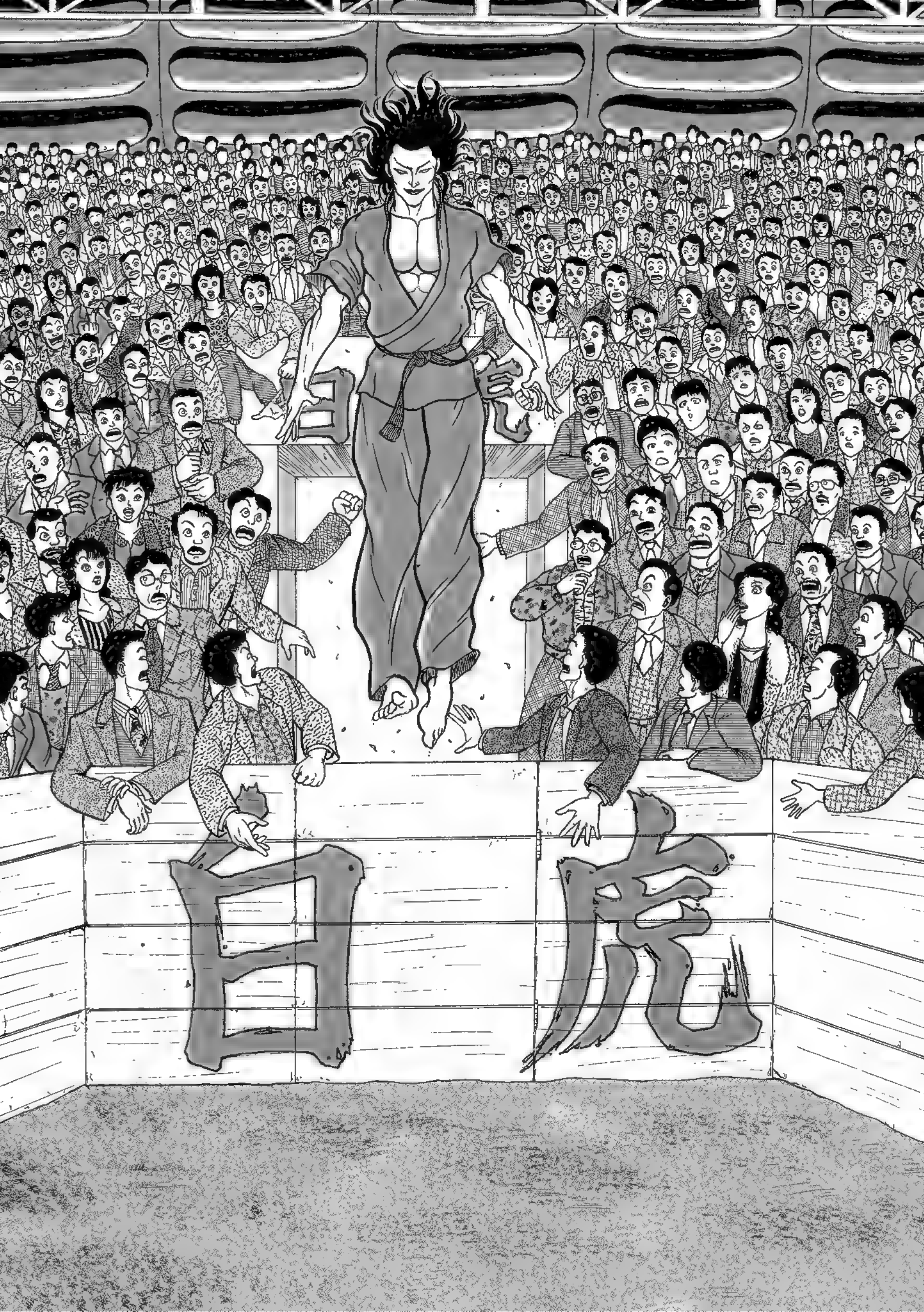
白虎

THERE HE IS!

IN THE WHITE TIGER CORNER, KOSHO SHINOGI!

IT'S TIME, C'MON, C'MON!

#20 Sacred Grounds That Decide the Strongest!


日
常

GOOSH
オオオオオ
WOOOO
白虎
青竜
WHSH
RAAH!

DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA JUST HOW TITILLATED I AM RIGHT NOW?

OSU! OSU!

BAKI HANMA.

I FEEL LIKE A VIRGIN BOY PREPARING FOR HIS FIRST NIGHT WITH A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN.

ONE THAT YOU SHOULD QUENCH QUITE NICELY !!!

I HAVE THIS MADDENING THIRST!

I PERSONALLY SCOUTED HIM OUT.

LAST SUMMER, IN SPAIN...

I NEVER THOUGHT THAT I'D SEE *CORD-CUTTER SHINOGI* HERE...

H-HE'S FRIGGIN' SMILING ...

NORTHERN SPAIN

...I SAW THAT TECHNIQUE MYSELF.

PAMPLONA JULY 7TH

DULCIN

OOOH... THEY SURE ARE FIRED UP!

DM DM DM DM DM DM DM

MMMM...

WE SHOULD HAVE A GOOD VIEW FROM HERE.

NOBLE ELDER.

RESTAURANT

DM

DM

FESTIVAL OF SAN FERMIN

DM

DM

■ONE OF SPAIN'S THREE BIGGEST FESTIVALS WITH A HISTORY SPANNING OVER FOUR-HUNDRED YEARS. THE "ENCIERRO" (RUNNING OF THE BULLS), IN WHICH A DOZEN OR SO BULLS ARE RELEASED INTO THE CITY STREETS, HAS BECOME A TEST OF BRAVERY AND THE GREATEST ATTRACTION OF THE FESTIVAL.

WHA?!

DM

SKSH...

DM

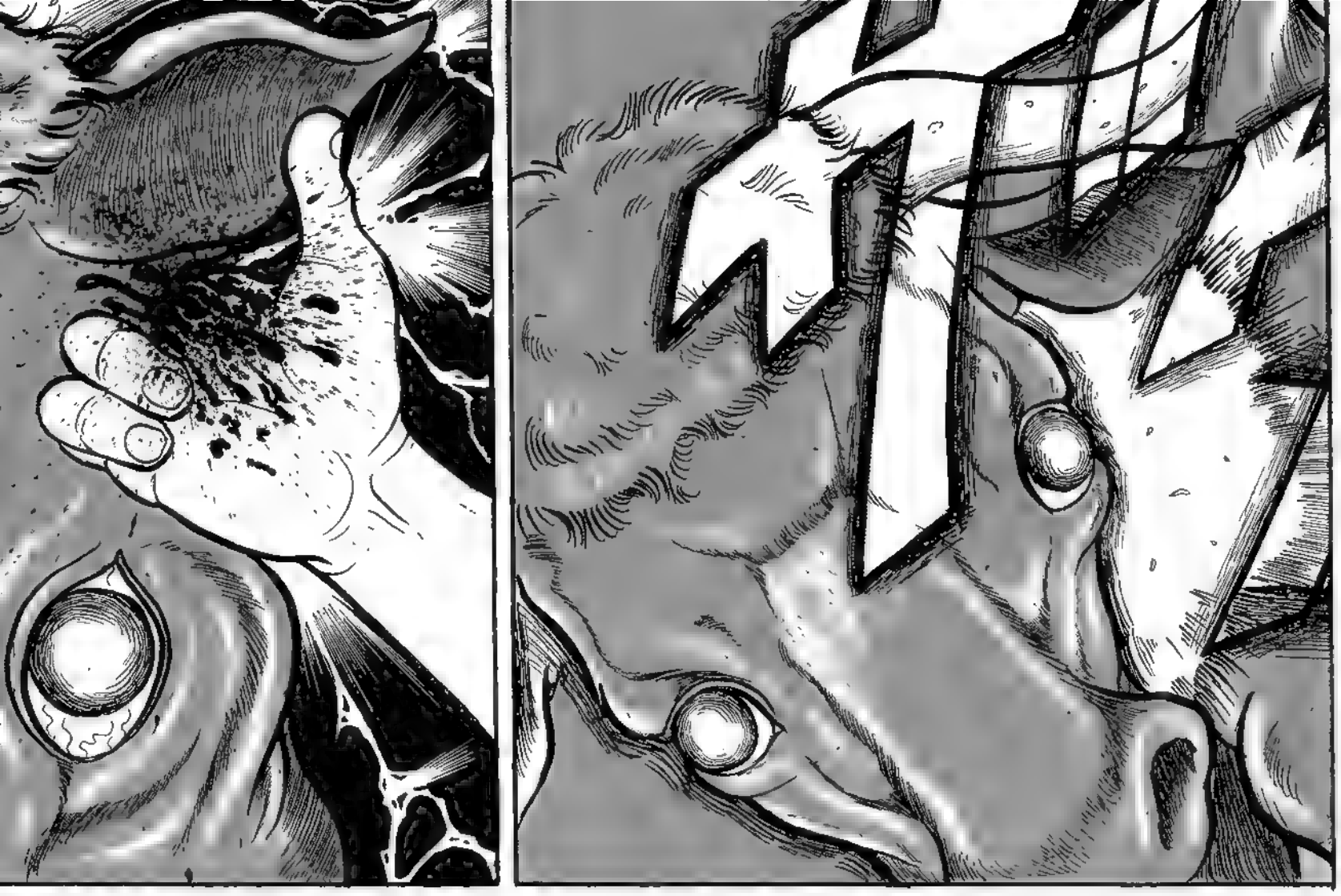
...

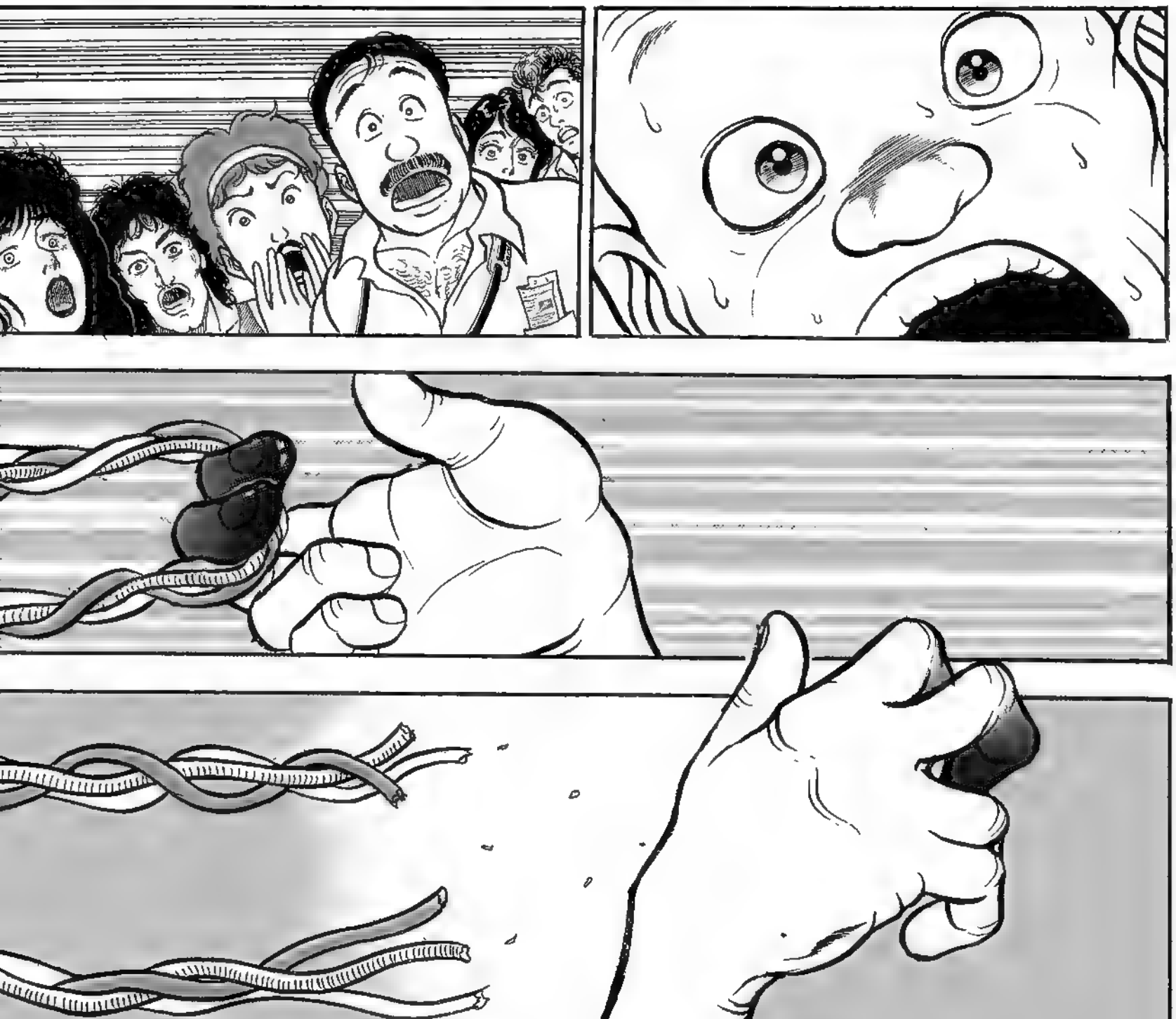
DM

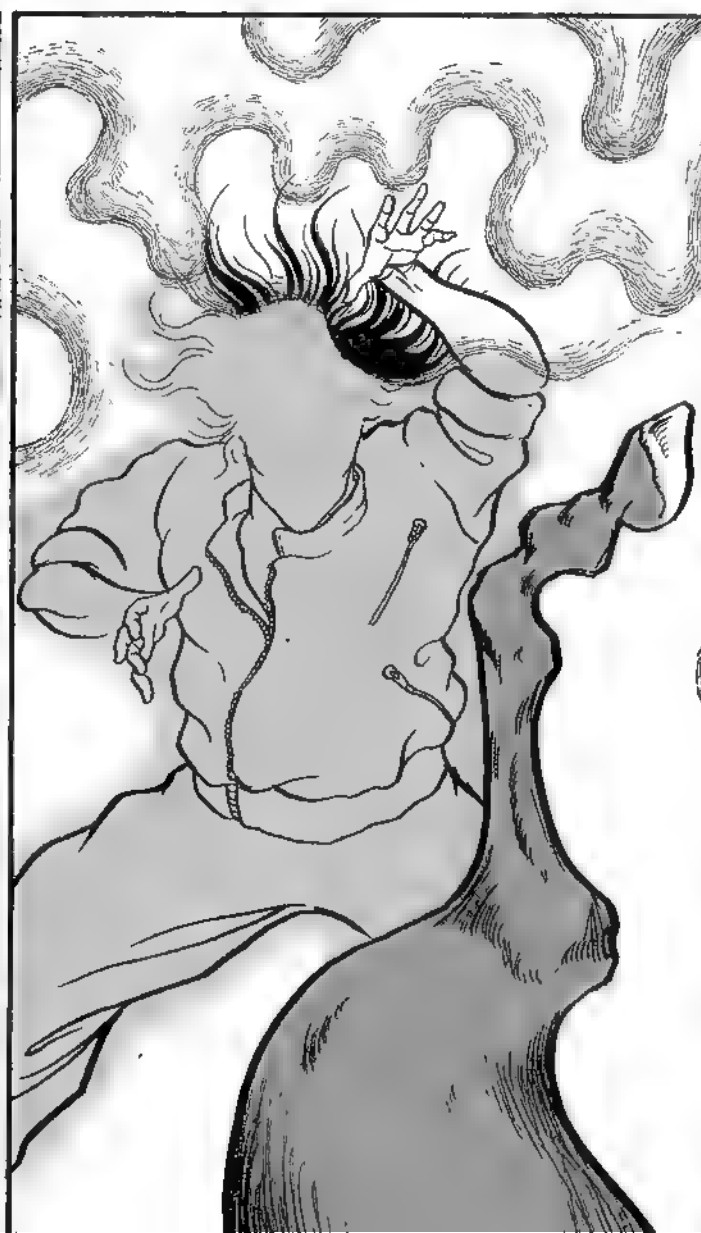
DM

WHAT IN THE WORLD ?!

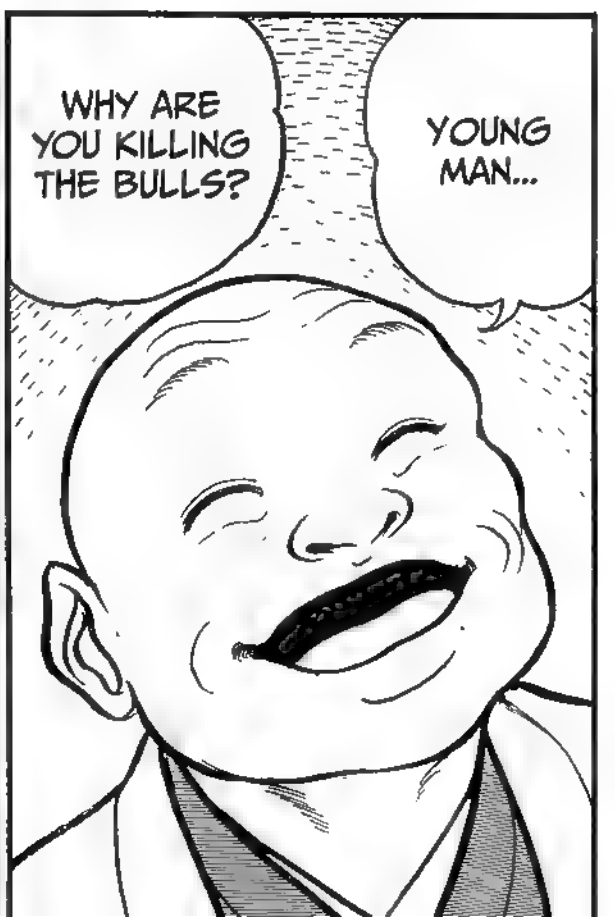
SHUNK
ZUBA
SLASH







THAT WAS MY FIRST CONTACT WITH SHINOGI.



...AN OPPONENT TO FIGHT.

I JUST WANT...

THE DEMON BAWLED...

RAAAAA

HE WAS A TRUE FIGHTER— A REAL MAN...

I HAD FOUND YET ANOTHER WHO HOUSED A DEMON IN HIS HEART...

...I WONDER HOW BAKI WILL QUELL IT.

NOW THAT THE *DEMON* HAS BEEN UNLEASHED...

PERK...

MR. SHINOGI.

...

...BEEN WAITING FOR THIS FOR A WHOLE MONTH.

I'VE...

I READ OVER TEN KARATE MANUALS AND EVEN FOUGHT A KARATE CHAMP...

IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN ANYTHING TO ME?

TO BE FRANK, IT MEANS I AM *NOT* GOING TO LOSE!

...WITH THOSE TAUNTS OF HIS...

HO HO! THERE GOES BAKI AGAIN...

KEH HEH HEH! THE OTHER COMPETITORS CAN'T STAND THAT!

ALL HE DID WAS READ SOME FRIGGIN' *MANUALS?*

PSH!

ONE MONTH?

SHINOGI! SHOW HIM THE POWER OF TRADITION!

YANK OUT EVERY NERVE IN HIS BODY!

YOU THINK THAT CRAP IS GONNA WORK?!

IS HE MOCKING US REAL MARTIAL ARTISTS ?!

I PLAN ON USING *EVERY* TECHNIQUE I HAVE TODAY.

I'LL BE UPFRONT AS WELL...

HANMA.

TEACH HIM A DAMN LESSON!

DON'T SCREW WITH THE MARTIAL ARTS!

YOU GUYS NEED TO PIPE DOWN...

SURE, YOU'D GET KILLED IF YOU DIDN'T.

...MR. SHINOGI.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF TECHNIQUES YOU HAVE, BUT...

DON'T COME HERE THINKING YOU'LL WIN JUST BECAUSE OF ONE OR TWO SPECIAL MOVES.

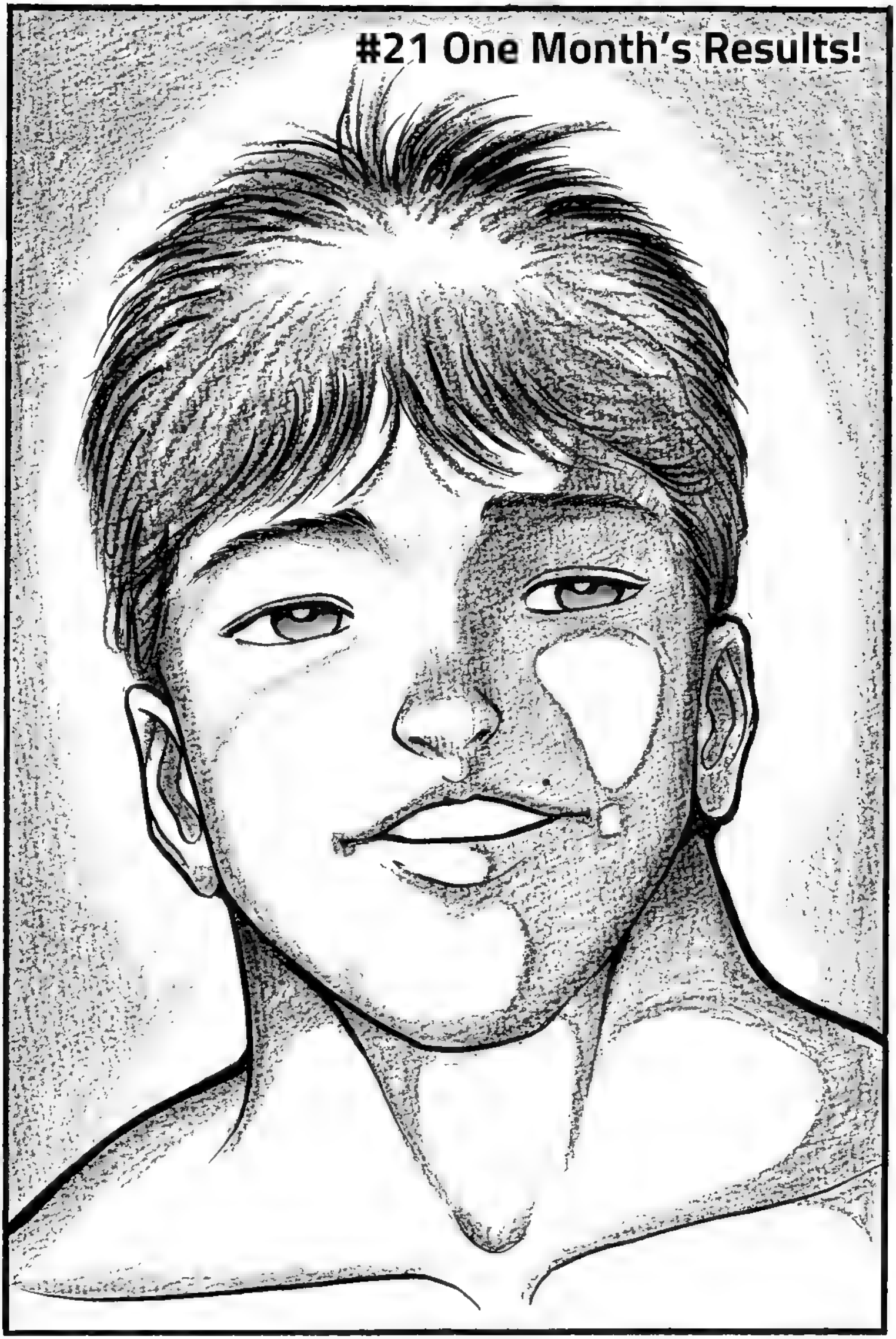
AFTER ALL, WE'RE STANDING IN A SACRED PLACE THAT DETERMINES WHO'S THE STRONGEST IN THE WORLD...

YOU INSULT ME SO EFFORTLESSLY.

...I NEED TO CUT *YOUR* CORDS AS WELL.

IT WOULD SEEM THAT...

THUMP


#21 One Month's Results!

THUMP

YEAAAAAAH!

白虎

青竜

RAH!!

THEY *CAN'T* MOVE...

NEITHER OF 'EM ARE MOVIN'.

...WHAT'S GOING ON?

WH...

...

ON TOP OF THAT, BOTH FIGHTERS HAVE FISTS THAT COULD BE CONSIDERED DEADLY WEAPONS!

...

...

BRAVADO ACCOMPLISHES NOTHING IN A BARE-HANDED, ANYTHING-GOES FIGHT.

ANY FEAR THEY HAVE WILL SOON BE OVERTAKEN BY A HUNGER FOR COMBAT.

HA HA HA! REMEMBER, THEY BOTH HAVE *DEMONS* IN THEIR HEARTS.

SO, NOBLE ELDER, WHO DO YOU THINK WILL MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

I WOULD ASSUME SO, YES...

HMMM, THAT'S A GOOD QUESTION...

WELL, IF I HAD TO CHOOSE...

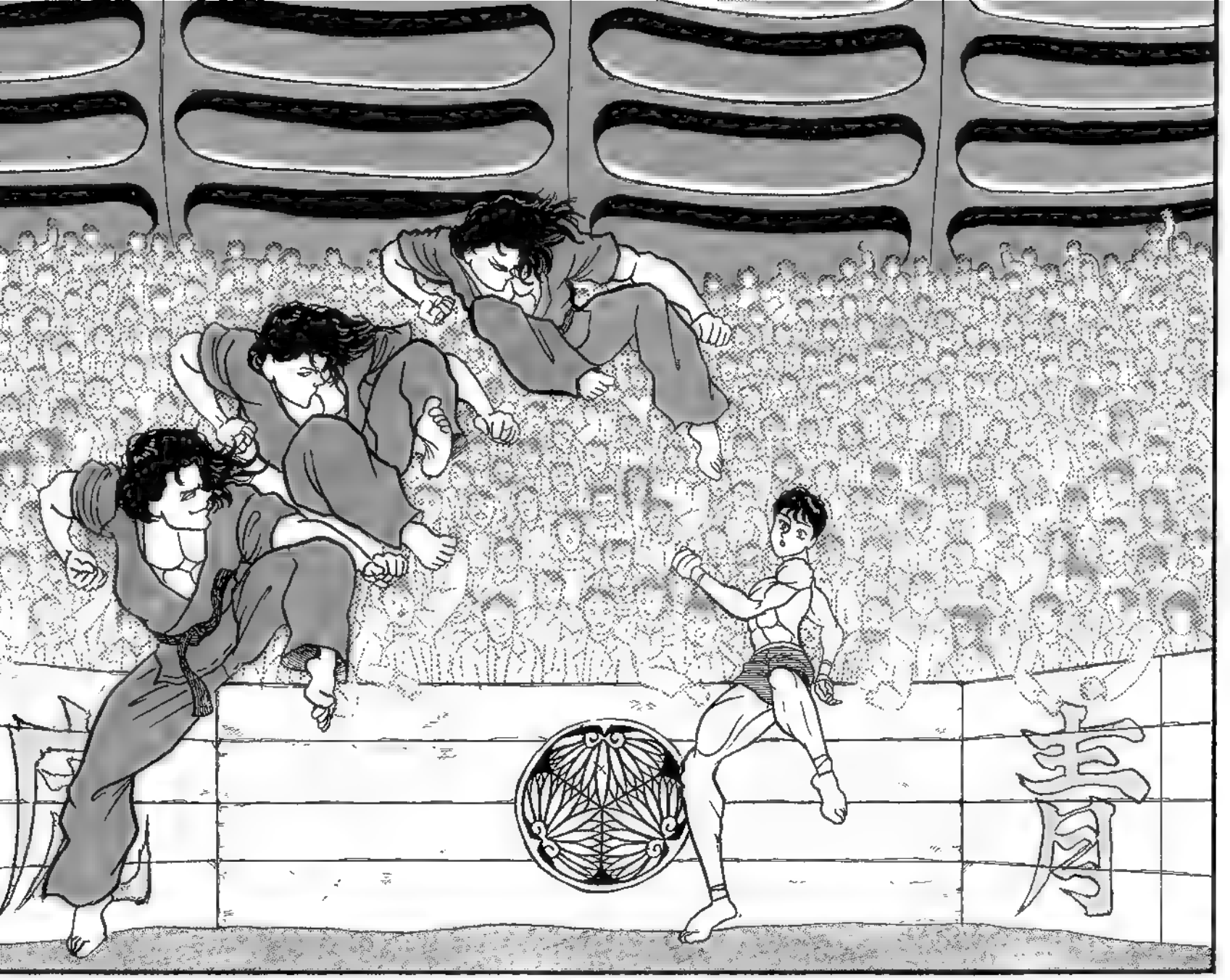
YEP, I KNEW IT...

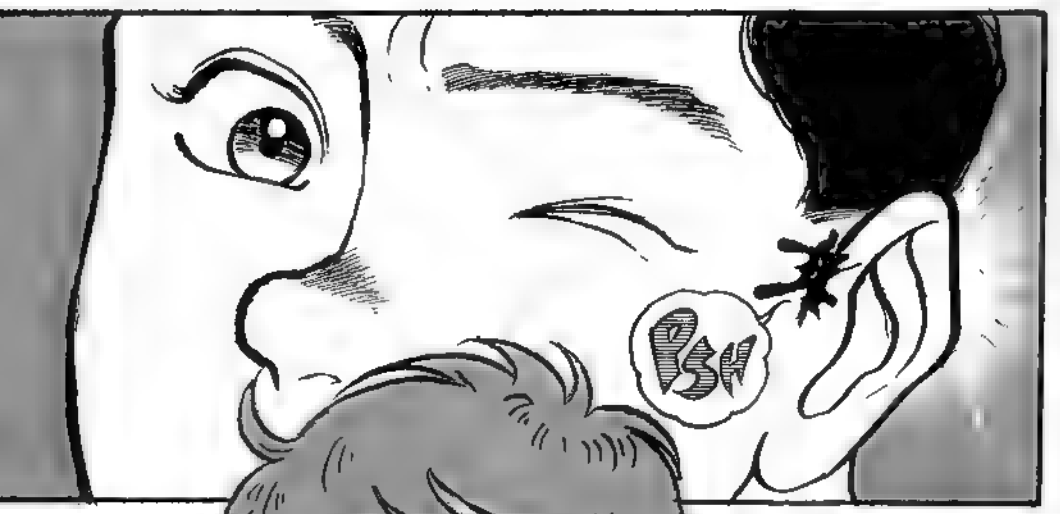
SHWOO

SHWOO

FOOLISH
...
...

K-TAK
SWISH


青春


PSH

...

EVERYWHERE HE GOT HIT...

...GOT CUT!

H-HIS STRIKES ARE INSANELY SHARP...

SURREAL!

SURPRISED ?

HEH HEH...

...CHOPS AND KICKS ARE NOT BLUNT STRIKES...

IN SHINOGI-RYU KARATE...

THEY'RE SLASHING ATTACKS!!!

GOOD, THAT'S IT...

...BUT HAS IT SUNK IN YET HOW FOOLISH YOU WERE TO THINK YOU MASTERED KARATE WITHIN A MERE MONTH?

I APPLAUD YOUR REFLEXES FOR BEING ABLE TO DODGE MY FLYING SIDE-KICK WITH JUST A SCRAPE TO THE EAR...

GUESS WE'LL FIND OUT!

HMMM...

HEY, OLD MAN, DOES BAKI REALLY STAND A CHANCE AGAINST A GUY LIKE *THAT*?!

C'MON, GET COCKY !!!

...I WILL CLAIM THE FIRST ATTACK...

NOW, THIS TIME AROUND...

VSH

THAT'S THE WAY!

YEAH...

THAT'S WHAT I'M TALKING ABOUT!!!

SHWE

CHERYAAA!!
KRA-KOW
OSU!

SH-
SHINOGI
!

DOOMF!!

HYU-
RURU-
RU!

ACK!

KA-KRAK
THAT'S HOW IT GOES WITH M'BOY BAKI!
OHO... SO HE MASTERED KARATE'S MID-SECTION PUNCH IN JUST A MONTH, HM?

THAT'S...

THAT'S YUJIRO'S LITTLE ONE, ISN'T IT?

HUH ...?!
PLNK

#22 The Champion's Right Arm!

ゴゥ
SWAP

THAT WAS FAST ...!

H-HE CUT HIM!

!!!

...

SO THAT'S THE SO-CALLED ...

...CORD-CUTTER.

IT MAY LOOK DIRTY AND UNCOUTH...

...

...THERE'S NO MOVE THAT BETTER EXEMPLIFIES KARATE.

...BUT AS FAR AS DESTROYING THE HUMAN BODY GOES...

BAKI!

...

IT HURTS!
IT HURTS!!
IT HURTS!!!

THIS PAIN IS UNBELIEV-ABLE!

FORGET COUNTER-ATTACKING!

...TO BE ON THE RECEIVING END OF THE CORD-CUTTER?

SINCE IT'S YOUR FIRST TIME, HOW DOES IT FEEL...

GRNooo

HM PH!

...MENTIONED *THIS.*

NONE OF THE MANUALS...

...

JUST THINK OF EVERY TRIP TO THE DENTIST YOU'VE EVER HAD.

THE PAIN FROM LIVE NERVES BEING SEVERED IS EXCRUCIATING.

IT MUST HURT.

HURT ...?

WISH

KA-KOK

LOW KICK.

HIGH ...!!!

MID...!

KLIK

MY RIGHT ARM WON'T RESPOND—

!!!

THAT TOE KICK LANDED CLEAN!

...FROM HERE ON OUT.

IT'S GOING TO BE HELL...

SEAL THE DEAL NOW, SHINOGI!

YEA-AAH!

WSH
BAM
WHP
WHIPSH

ERGH ...!
YEEK ...!

DMF

SHINOGI, FINISH HIM OFF!

DOOF

BAM

WHAM

BAM!

WHAM!

WHIP

MORE!
MORE!

LET'S
GO!

SO THIS IS...

S...

ONCE I SLAM THIS FIST INTO YOUR TEMPLE...

...THE UNDER-GROUND ARENA!!!

...I WILL BE THE CHAMPION !!!

FWK

Shoot!

SHIV
SHIV
SHIV
SHIV
SHIV
HE COUNTERED !!!
GAA-AAH!
GRP...
...
GRP GRP
H-HE'S UP!

GRN...

H-HE'S PUSHING HIS OWN NERVES BACK IN.

MR. SHINOGI.

WASH

GRN...

...JUST BECAUSE YOU DISABLED MY RIGHT ARM?

YOU THINK YOU CAN REPLACE ME...

...ONLY THE STRONGEST BELONG HERE...

YOU SHOULDN'T FORGET...

PIYOO

...

#23 The Quest for Fingers of Steel!

...JUST BECAUSE OF THAT TEENY TINY ATTACK...

YOU SHOULDN'T FEEL LIKE YOU'VE ALREADY WON...

BIG MISTAKE, MR. SHINOGI...

CALM DOWN! HE'S JUST A LITTLE TOUGHER THAN I THOUGHT! THAT'S ALL!!!

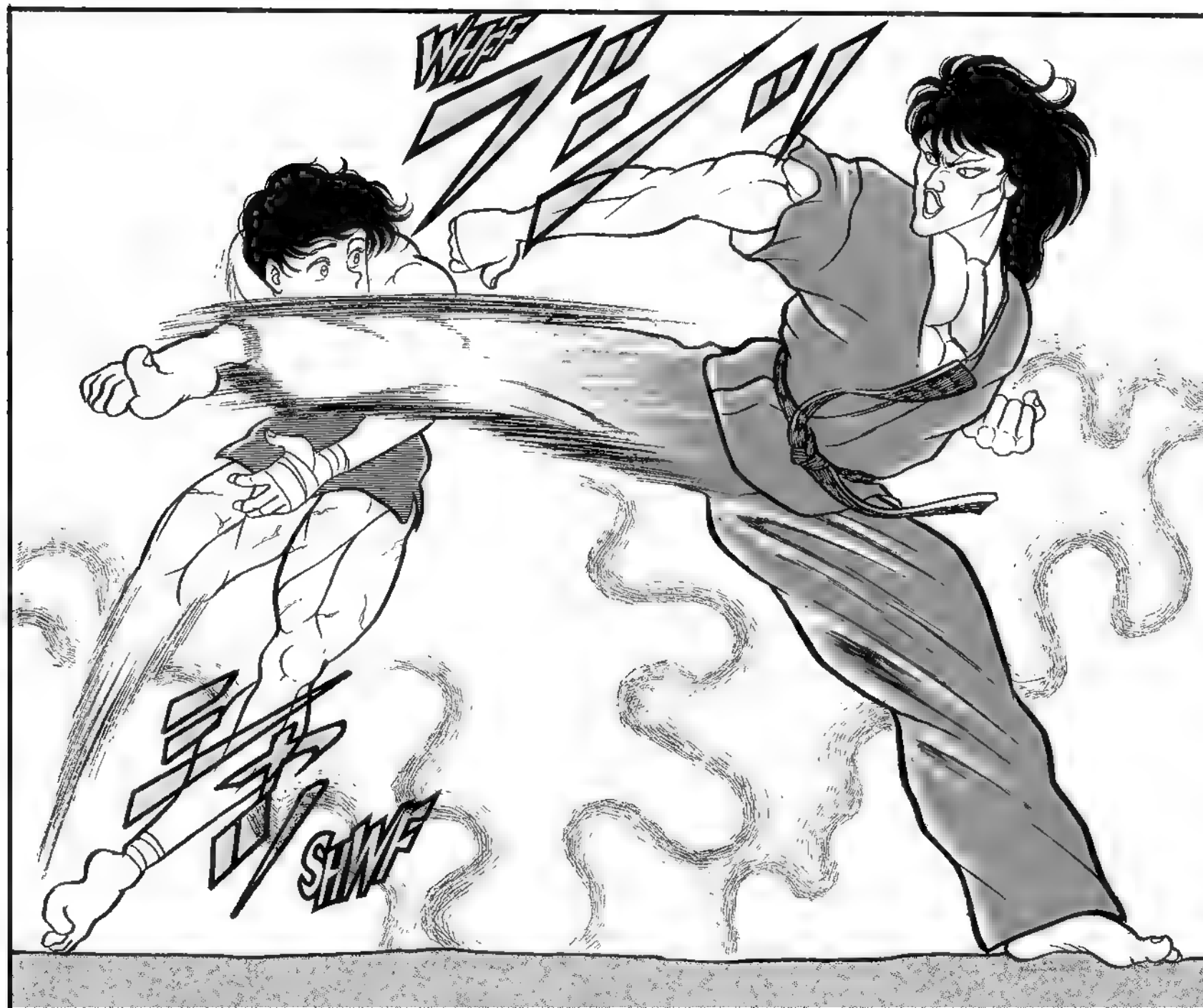
UGH.

...

HIS RIGHT ARM IS USELESS NOW!!!

MY OVER-WHELMING ADVANTAGE STILL REMAINS!!!

VWSH


WHFF
SHWF

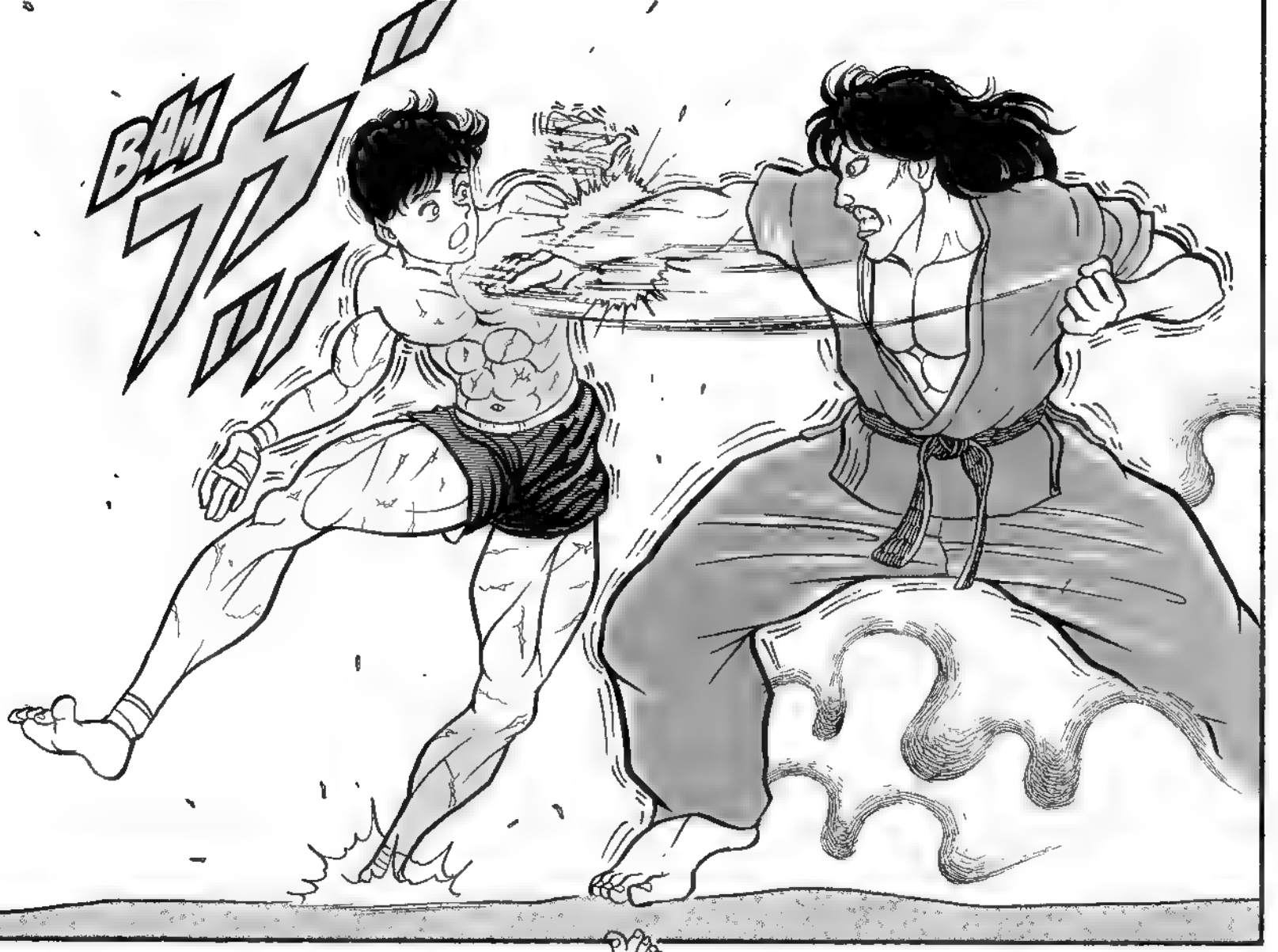
WSH

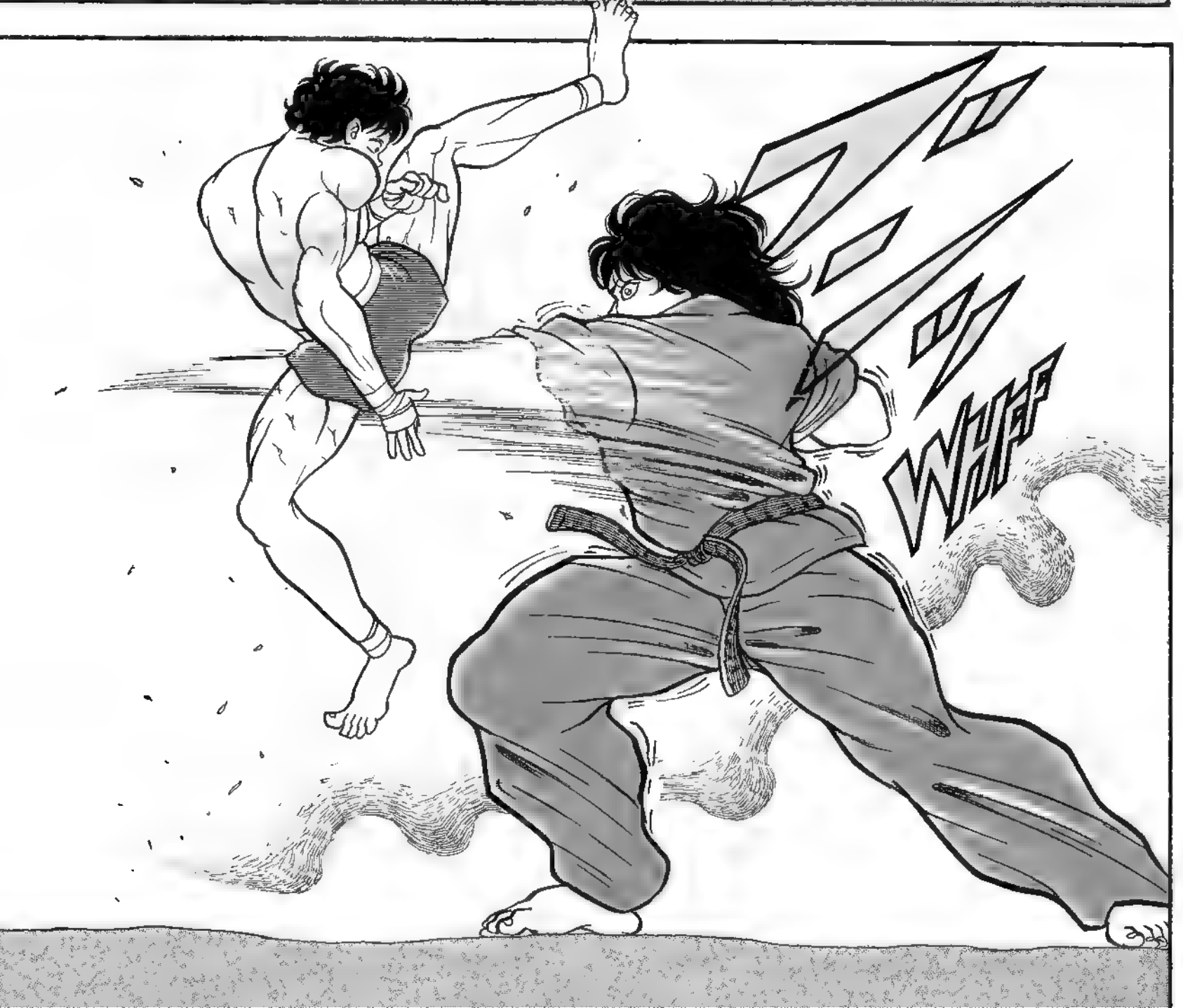
BAM

WHIFF

SHWF

HE PLUCKED THE FOOT HE WAS PIVOTING ON!
S-SO FAST!
TMP
H- HE'S NOT GOING DOWN!!!


BAM


WHIFF

GRAP

SLIP

FWOOM

BAKI HANMA !!!

I HAVE THE UTMOST RESPECT FOR YOUR COMBAT ABILITIES!!!

THEY'RE *LAUGHING*... BOTH OF THEM...

!

I'M IMPRESSED THAT DESPITE ONLY HAVING ACCESS TO YOUR LEFT ARM...

...YOU'RE STILL ABLE TO MOUNT SUCH A FEARSOME OFFENSIVE!!

白虎

白虎

青

I'VE LONGED FOR THE DAY WHEN I'D BE ABLE TO FIGHT LIKE THIS!

I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR A MAN LIKE YOU TO SHOW UP...

OSU!

KOSHO...

BACK THEN, WHEN MY HEART YEARNED TO GET STRONGER...

WHAT IS THE MOST POWERFUL WEAPON THE HUMAN BODY CAN MUSTER?

THE ATTACKS WITHIN KARATE'S ARSENAL...

OSU! THE SEIKEN— THE STRAIGHT !!!

...

...BECOME MORE POWERFUL THE SHARPER THAT PART OF THE BODY IS.

MORE THAN THE IPPONKEN...

THE IPPONKEN— MIDDLE FINGER STRIKE!

MORE THAN THE HIRAKEN...

THE HIRAKEN— LEVEL HAND!

MORE THAN THE SEIKEN...

IT'S THE *NUKITE— THE SPEAR HAND!!!*

GSSA
MMPH!
VWSH

A SEIKEN COULDN'T DO THIS.

JUST AS MY MASTER PLANNED...

...I ASKED FOR SPECIAL TRAINING FROM THAT DAY FORWARD.

A PROPERLY TRAINED NUKITE HAS THE SAME POWER AS A BLADE!

ZWOOP

THE FINGER PUSH-UPS AND FINGER CHIN-UPS WERE NEVER-ENDING.

BECAUSE...

IT WAS A REAL MAN-TO-MAN TRAINING SESSION, BUT I NEVER NEEDED MY MASTER'S TOUGH LOVE TO FIND MY MOTIVATION.

...AND PASSION!

I HAD TENACITY...

HA!

HE WAS CLAD IN FORMAL ATTIRE...

LATE ONE NIGHT, MASTER CAME TO MY HOUSE.

...

...BEFORE MASTER HANDED ME A SMALL PACKAGE.

I WAS COMPLETELY CLUELESS AS I BROUGHT HIM REFRESHMENTS...

IT HELD HIS DOMINANT FINGERS...!!!

...AND I INHERITED THE ART...

MASTER HAD RETIRED...

...HAS BEEN LIFTED FROM MY SHOULDERS.

THE WEIGHT ...

FIGHT WITHOUT HESITATION.

RAAAAAH

RAAAAAH

...OF THE PERFECTLY HONED CORD-CUTTER!!!

I SPENT THREE MORE YEARS POLISHING MY CRAFT! YOU'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A TASTE...

...HAS SNAPPED.

SHINOGI...

#24 A Boy's Tears!

白虎
青
THIS IS THE PASSION-FILLED ESSENCE OF SHINOGI-RYU...
SWF
...
HE'S USING THAT?!
IS HE GOING TO DO IT?!
I'VE BEEN DEVELOPING MY KARATE FOR FIFTEEN YEARS...
...HAS SNAPPED.
SHINOGI...
SHI... NO... GI...
GRR...

...AND YOU'RE BEING TREATED TO A SPECIAL TASTE OF IT!
...
...
...
SHINOGI, HE'S...

HALT
IS HE GONNA USE IT ?!
HE'S OUT TO KILL!
KRIK...
キリ…
KRIIK...
キリリ…

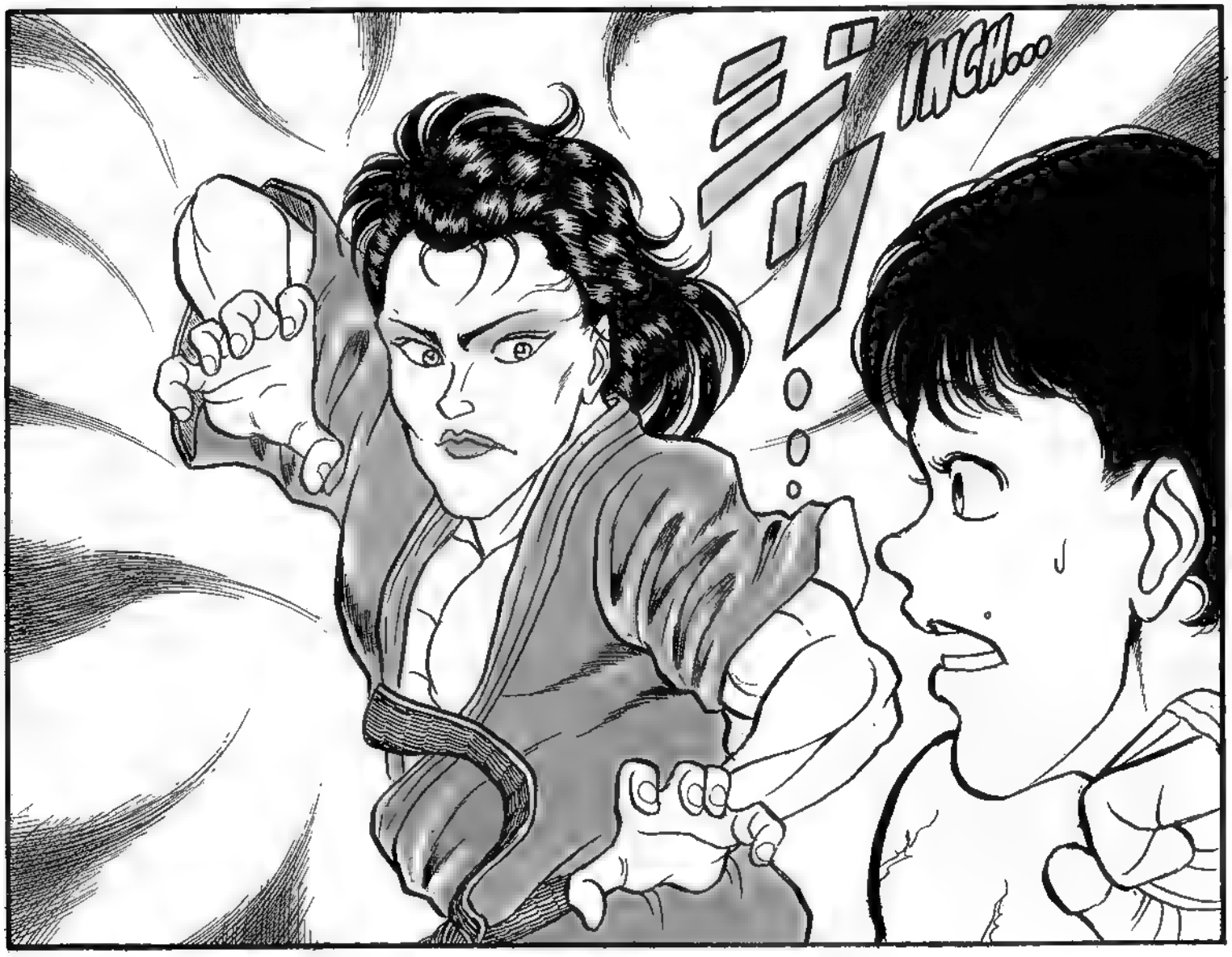
DO YOU KNOW WHY?

...HUMANS ARE THE ONLY ANIMALS THAT USE CLOSED FISTS.

UHH ...?

WHEN IT COMES TO FIGHTING...

HEH, WHAT AN OVER-EXAGGERATED STANCE.



IF WE HAD POWERFUL TALONS ON PAR WITH SAVAGE BEASTS...

BECAUSE UNLIKE OTHER ANIMALS, HUMANS ARE BORN WITHOUT WEAPONS SUCH AS CLAWS OR FANGS.

SHAAA!!
...
UWSH

IT LIES WITHIN THE STRENGTH OF ITS FINGERS, TRAINED TO PERFORM AT THEIR ABSOLUTE LIMITS!!!

THE TRUE TERROR OF SHINOGI-RYU DOESN'T LIE IN ITS NUKITE TECHNIQUES!

...

...WE WOULD BE FIGHTING LIKE THAT!

...

WISH

BSH
BSH

YES, BECAUSE IF ANY OF THOSE SWIPES CONNECT, THEY'LL TAKE EVERYTHING— BONES INCLUDED.

URK! H-HE'S DEFLECTING EVERYTHING...

PAINT THE FLOOR WITH HIS BRAINS!!!

END IT!

SHINOG!! FINISH HIM! FINISH HIM NOW!

WOO! HE'S GOT HIM ON THE ROPES!

ドン
DMF

HERE HE COMES !!!

WOO

ACK!
BA-SWSH
YIKES...
WHAT THE...
...HELL ?
KRAK
WHAT IN THE WORLD ?!
HE JUMPED!

SWOOM...
HE WAS LUCKY GETTING OUTTA THE WAY THAT TIME, BUT EVENTUALLY HE'LL GET CAUGHT.
IT'S LIKE HE'S ACTUALLY FIGHTING A TIGER OR LION.
MM...

THAT'S A REAL ROUNDABOUT WAY TO PUT IT.

IT IS QUITE EXTRA-ORDINARY INDEED.

THE RED-HOT DESIRE FOR BATTLE TURNS MEN INTO SAVAGE BEASTS.

...BUT HIS TENACITY FOR FIGHTING FAR SURPASSES MY UNDERSTANDING.

THAT BOY, BAKI HANMA, SEEMS VERY DOCILE...

IT WAS EXACTLY TWO YEARS AGO...

*CALLIGRAPHY: FIGHTING SPIRIT

IT WAS DEFINITELY WHAT YOU'D CALL A SHOCKING ENCOUNTER...

IT SOUNDS LIKE YOU HAVE HISTORY WITH THE BOY, NOBLE ELDER.

YES, I SURE DO.

HMMM...

PRETTY GOOD, IF I DO SAY SO MYSELF...

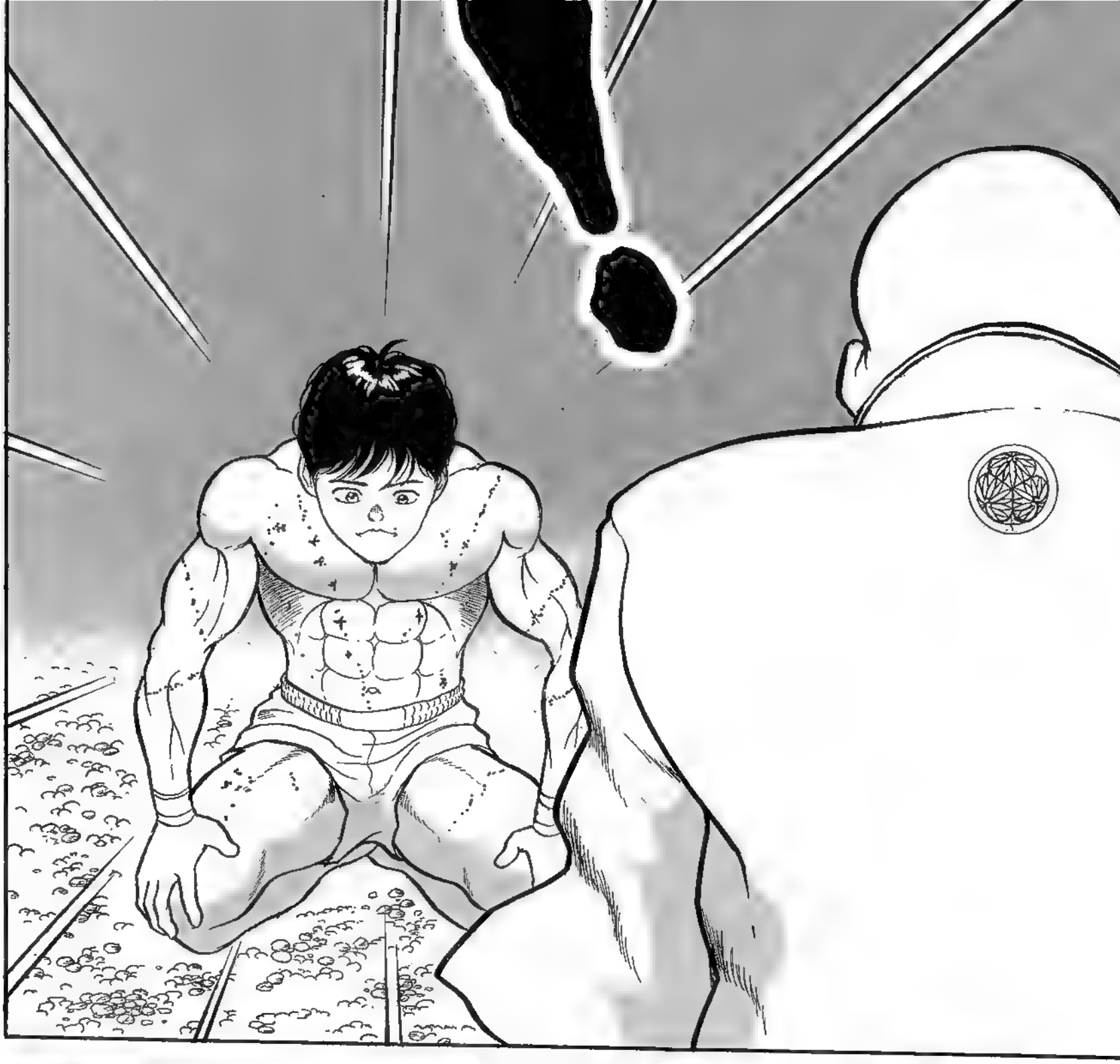
IS NO ONE AROUND?

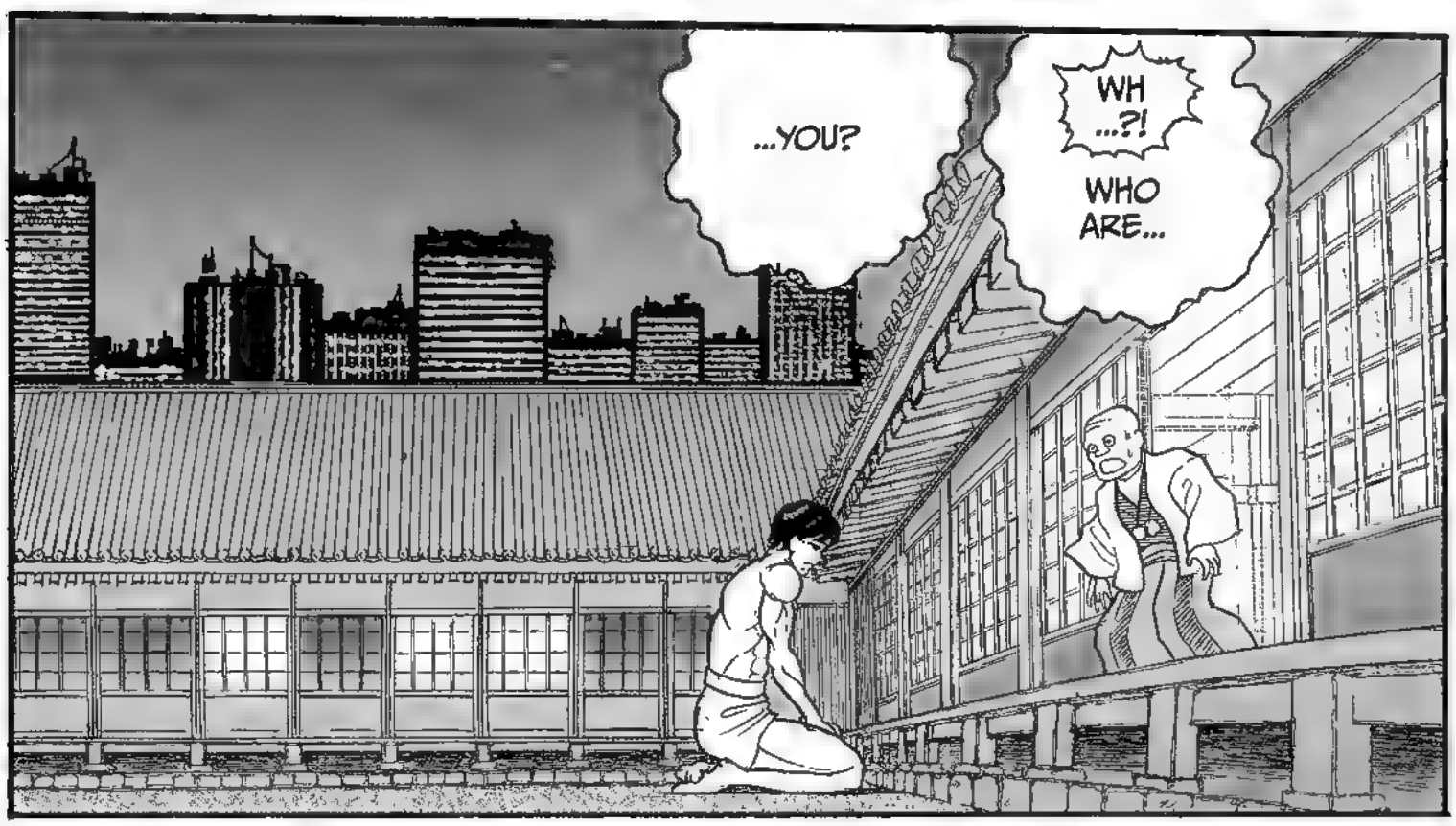
...

SIP SIP...

OH WELL, IF I MUST...

SHRA




...YOU?
WH ...?!
WHO ARE...

I WAS SURPRISED TO FIND A BOY SQUATTING THERE, HALF-NAKED AND COVERED IN BLOOD...

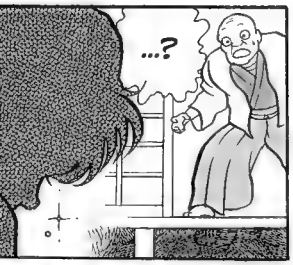
...BUT WHAT TRULY SHOCKED ME...

W-WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?!

...AND I SAW WHAT HAD HAPPENED!

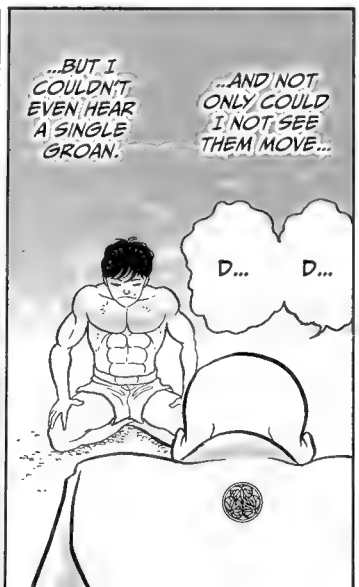
...WAS WHEN MY EYES ADJUSTED TO THE DARK...

HEY, WHERE IS EVERY-BODY?!


...?

TRP

...DID YOU DO THIS?!


...BUT I COULDN'T EVEN HEAR A SINGLE GROAN.
...AND NOT ONLY COULD I NOT SEE THEM MOVE...
D...
D...

...WERE MY BRAWNY BODYGUARDS...

STREWN ACROSS THE COURTYARD...

...

ポタ DRIP
ポタポタ DRIP

PLEASE LET ME FIGHT IN THE KORAKUEN !!!

!!!

PLEASE...

...

...

HIS TEARS WERE FILLED WITH SO MUCH *PASSION!*

...

BAKI
THE GRAPPLER
BAKI
THE GRAPPLER

PLEASE LET ME FIGHT IN THE KORAKUEN!!!

HIS TEARS WERE FILLED WITH SO MUCH *PASSION!*

HMMM ...

HMMM...

...AND HE CLIMBED ALL THE WAY TO THE TOP UNDEFEATED?

Y...

YOU'RE SAYING HE MADE HIS DEBUT HERE AT JUST FIFTEEN...

#25 Final Weapon!

THIS BOY, AT ONLY 60 OR SO KILOS...

IT WAS AN UNBELIEVABLE SIGHT...

...WAS TOPPLING THEM LIKE DOMINOES...

...UP AGAINST FIGHTERS WEIGHING 70 TO 100-KILOS!...

AND UNDER THESE NO-HOLDS-BARRED RULES, WHERE MOST MEN CAN ONLY HANDLE ONE MATCH EVERY SIX MONTHS...!

...BAKI SHOCKINGLY KEPT FIGHTING WITH BARELY A MONTH'S BREAK...

HE ANALYZES HIS FOE IN EVERY WAY POSSIBLE!

HE SUBMITS AN ENTRY APPLICATION AND HIS OPPONENT IS SELECTED!

AND THEN HE FIGHTS !!!

HE THEN GOES THROUGH SPECIAL TRAINING WITH A TRULY MURDEROUS SCHEDULE!

AND SO, IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE, HE CLAWED HIS WAY TO THE TOP.

HIS REASON FOR FIGHTING IS A REAL TEAR-JERKER...

!

...A FIFTEEN-YEAR-OLD KID LIKE HIM?

A...

BAKI'S ON THE MOVE!

OOH!

...HE'S STARTING TO CLOSE IN!

HE...

INCH...

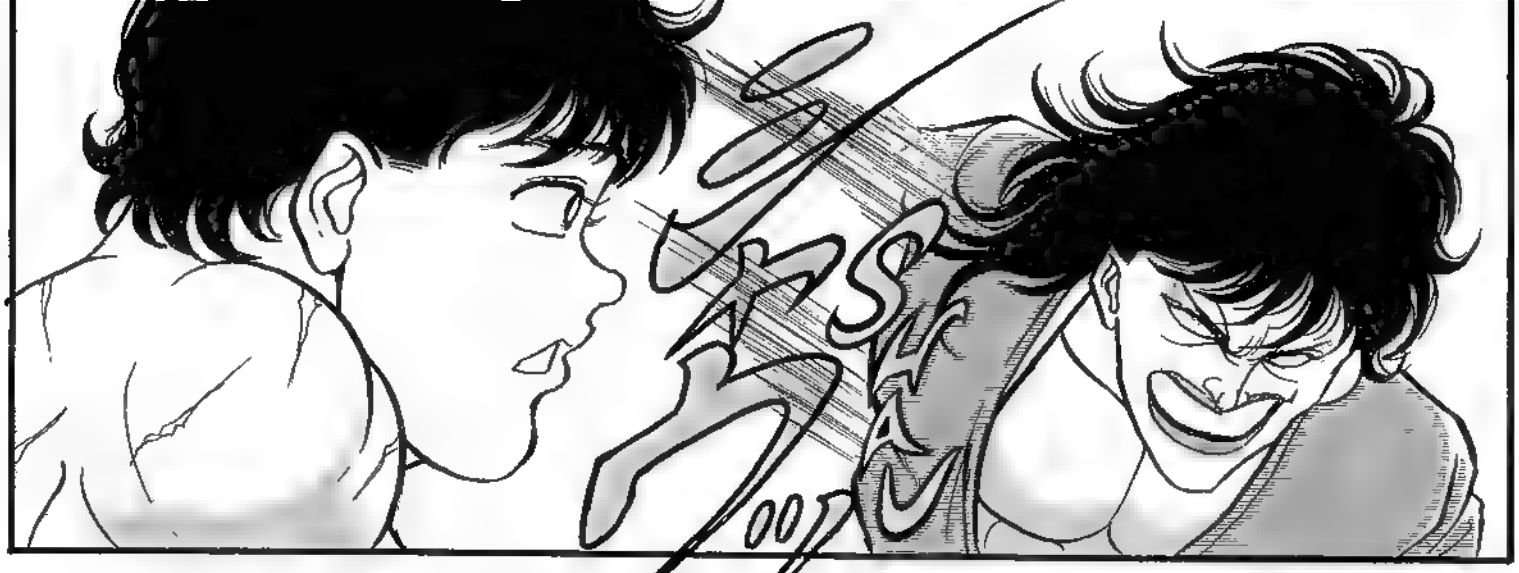
GRIN...

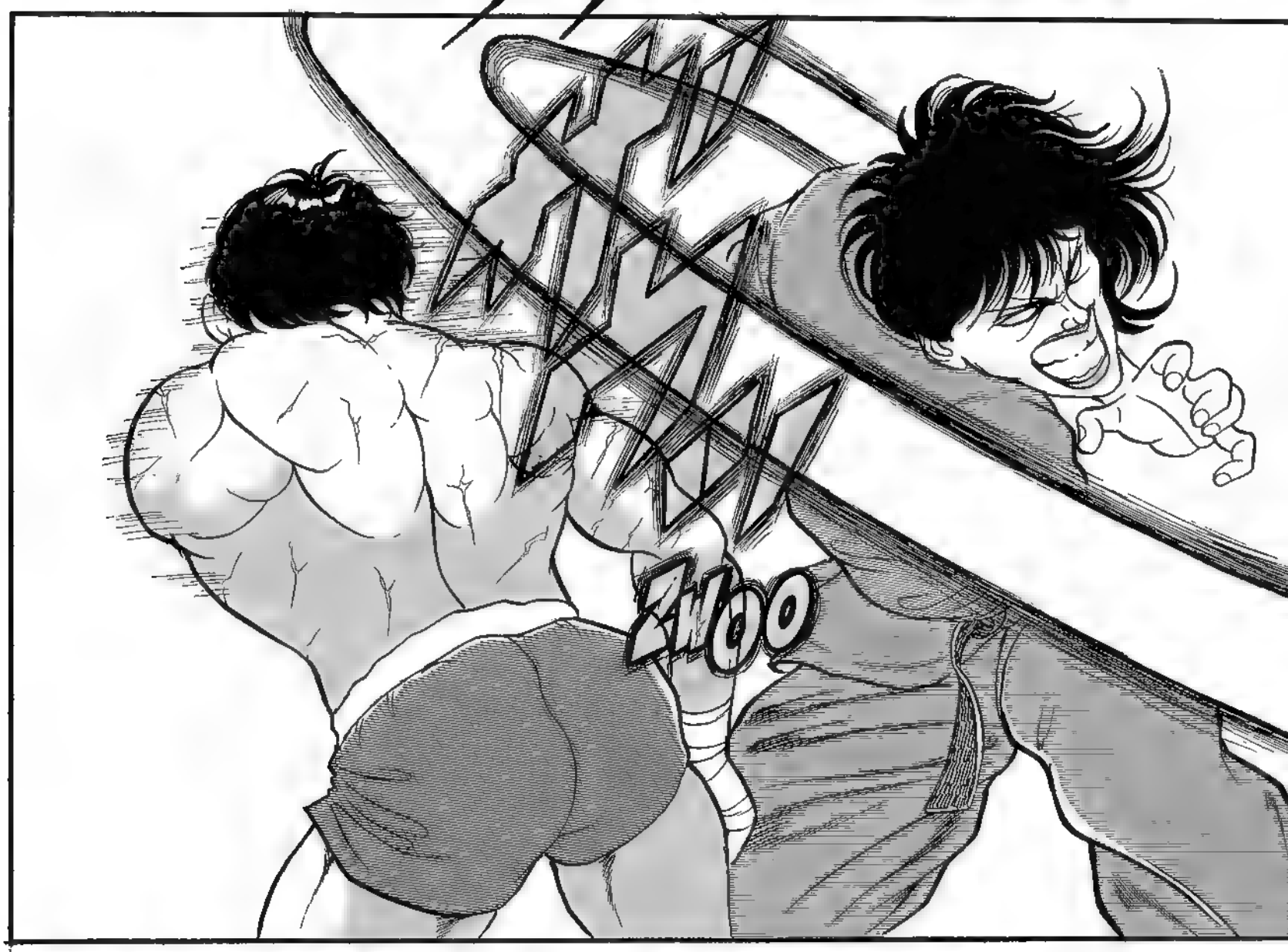
INCH...

...

...BUT MY EYES COULD STILL TRACK IT.

THAT WAS AN AMAZING ATTACK....


ZHOO


ZHOO

I KNEW IT...

TCH!

HIS STYLE IMITATES HOW A SAVAGE BEAST FIGHTS...

HIS ATTACK PATHS ARE WAY TOO SIMPLE!

...AND HAS INCREDIBLE SPEED, BUT THERE'S NO VARIATION TO BACK IT UP!

YUP, THERE HE GOES!

!

AS LONG AS I KEEP MY EYES ON THE STARTUP OF EACH MOVE, HE'LL NEVER HIT ME!!!

SHA
WHAP
青
竜
青
竜
BAKI HAS SEEN THROUGH HIM.
THE HANDICAP FROM ONLY HAVING ONE USABLE ARM IS NOW GONE.

SLSH
SHF
WSH
SHA
SHF

W-WHY, YOU...
WHF
WHF
WHSH
SHA
WHSH

WHOA !!!
SHI– !!!
BWF
BRAKKK

KA-DMF
HE NAILED HIM!

KRAAAH

...

BAKI HANMA...

...

KA-DOOMF

WHIP

BRAK

SHWF

IF IT COMES TO THAT ...!!!

BAKI, YOU'RE SO HOT!

WHP WHP WHP WHP

...I'LL GLADLY TAKE YOU DOWN WITH ME!

THIS IS SHINOGI-RYU'S...

!

WHP WHP

!!!

BAKI HANMA ...

THIS IS...

BWF
...FINAL WEAPON !!!
KRIKK

PWCH PWCH

H-HE CAUGHT THE ATTACK WITH HIS SHOULDER!

WHAT A SHAME... FOR YOU...

HE BROKE IT!!!

...I KNEW YOU'D DO THAT !!!

PLNK

– #26 Seize the Decisive Moment!

...I KNEW YOU'D DO THAT!!!

A SHAME... FOR YOU...

...

!!!!

WHICH ONE?!

HE CUT ANOTHER ONE!!!

EEEEEEEK!

...!

MY...

...I CAN'T SEE OUT OF IT!!!

MY RIGHT EYE...

SQWEEZE
BAKI HANMA!!!
YOUR CHANCES FOR VICTORY HAVE NOW...
...GONE UP IN SMOKE!!!

FWSH
?!
H-HE DISAPPEARED !!!

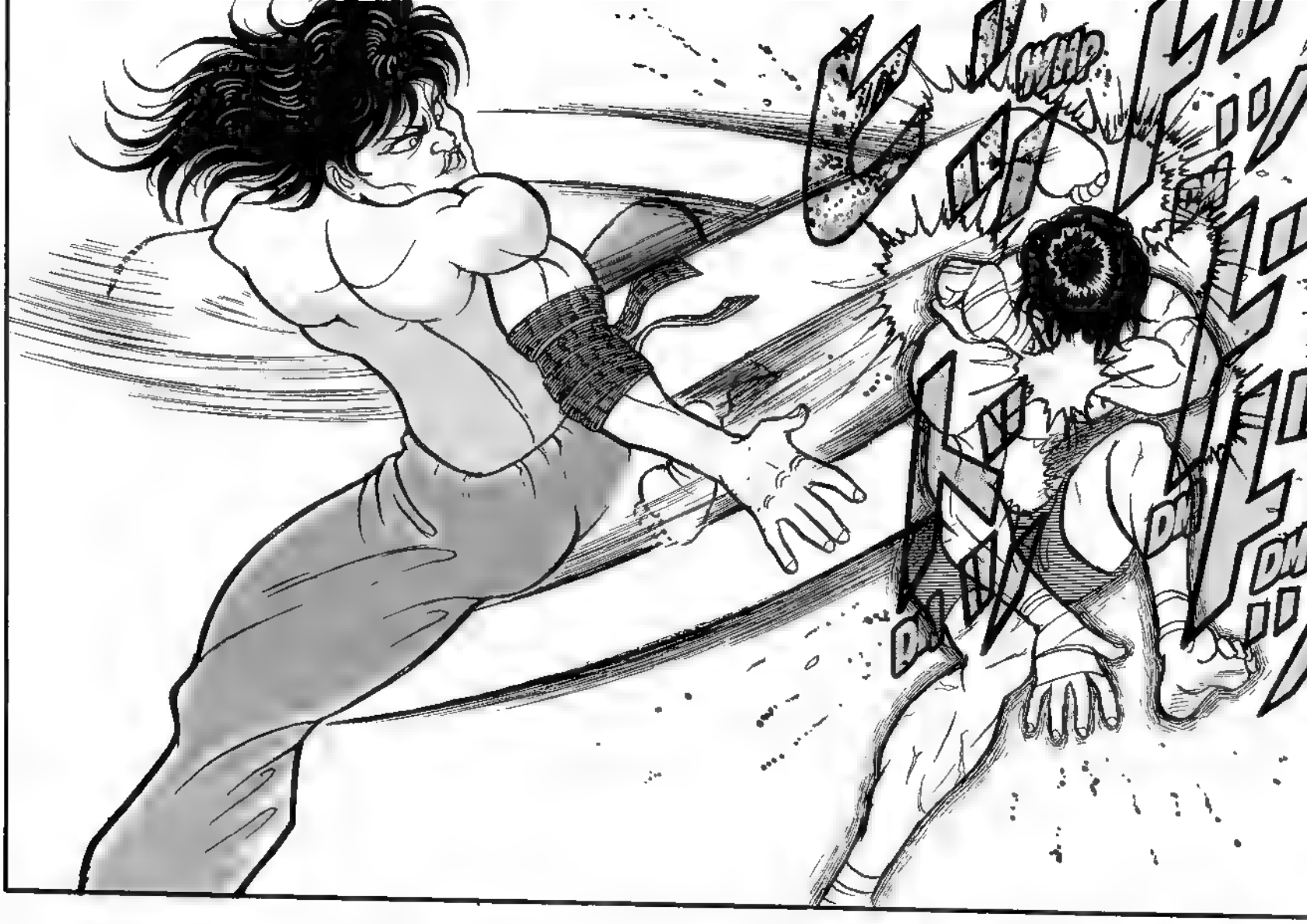
KWAK

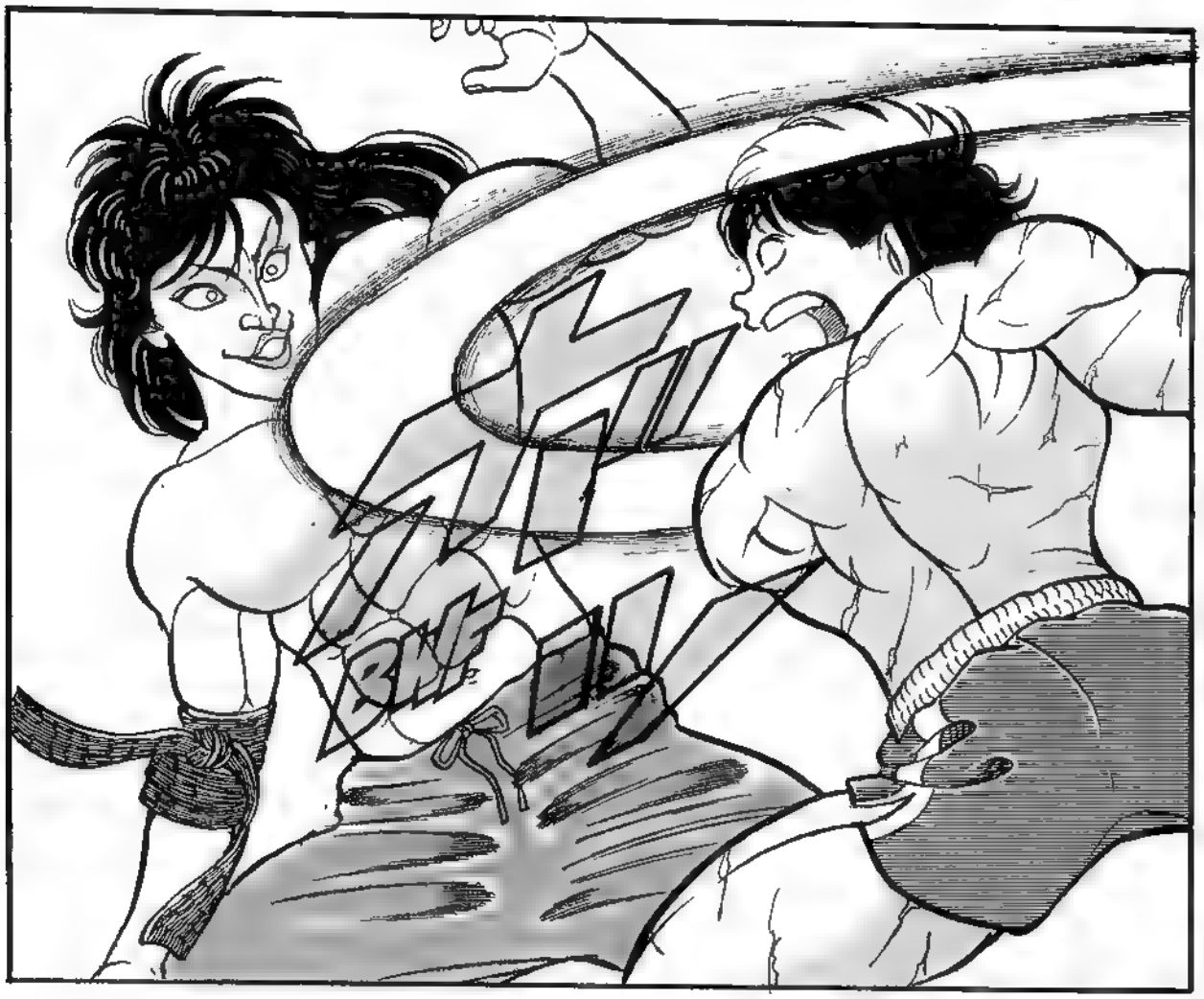
SHINK

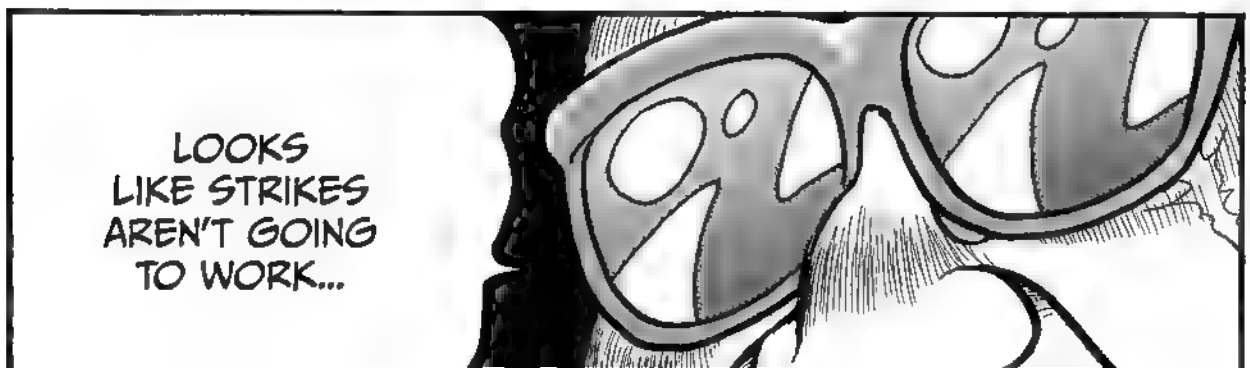
WHP

WHEW, BOY! HE'S REALLY GOING TO TOWN ON HIM NOW!

HIS RIGHT SIDE IS NOW JUST ONE BIG BLIND SPOT ...!!!


DM
DM
DM
DM


BAM
BAM


LOOKS LIKE STRIKES AREN'T GOING TO WORK...

I CAN'T FIND MY...

MY DEAR BAKI, YOU CAN'T HIT ME, CAN YOU?

...SENSE OF DISTANCE !!!

KONK

BECAUSE MINE WILL BE THE *LAST* ONE YOU EVER SEE!

BURN THE IMAGE OF MY FACE INTO YOUR EYES!

PWCH

PWCH

PWCH

PWCH

PWCH

REMEMBER MY FACE...

WILL BAKI TAKE NOTICE?!

HE'S GONNA GO AFTER HIS LEFT EYE!!!

...AS YOU PLUNGE INTO DARKNESS!!!

...

THIS IS THE ONLY MOMENT YOUR FISTS STOP, RIGHT...?

H-HE DID IT !!!

SLIP

GRAHK

W-W-WHA ...?!
THAT BOY IS A REAL TERROR...
EVEN IN THIS SITUATION, HE NOTICED A THING LIKE THAT...
GRIND
PUSH

KLAK
KK

H...

...

HOW DISGRACE-FUL!

GIVE UP ALREADY !!!

!!

YOU'VE GOT NO SHOT AT A COMEBACK NOW!

MR. SHINOGI!

GO AHEAD AND BREAK IT!!!

JUST BREAK IT!

WHAT'S THE PURPOSE OF KARATE IF I CAN'T DEFEAT THE LIKES OF YOU?!

IF I DO, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO DO KARATE ANYMORE!!!

...

BREAK IT!

DOES HE REALIZE THE SITUATION HE'S IN?!

IF YOU DON'T BREAK IT, I'LL BITE OFF MY OWN TONGUE!

WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?!

THIS WON'T BE THE KIND OF FACTURE YOU CAN RECOVER FROM !!!

WHY, YOU...

HE'S GONNA SNAP IT!!!

W...

...HARD-HEADED JERRRRK !!!

FLICK

...

H-HE KNOCKED HIM OUT WITH A PUNCH...

...

...

HUFF

HUFF

YEAH!!

THE MATCH IS OVER!!!

#27 Ask the Winner!

MY BLOOD... IS *BOIL-ING...*

HOLY CRAP...

H...

WUOOO

MMMM, MMMM.

WHIFF
SHIP

HE WON AGAIN!!!
HE...

W-W-W-WHA...?
DM

THAT COCKY PRICK...
UGH!

WHOA!

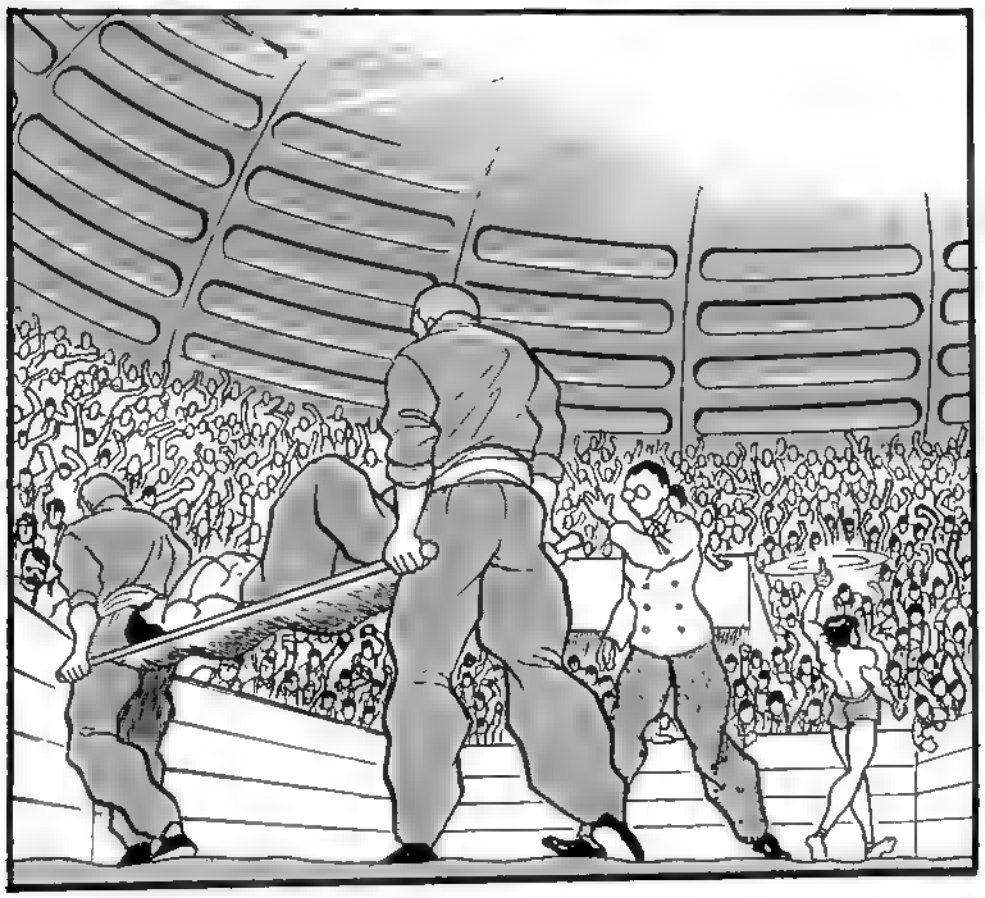
WSH

BAM

LITTLE JERK... HE DID THAT ON PURPOSE...

HYOU !!!

SHMP



IT'S JUST A CONCUSSION...
MM-HMM...

BAKIIIII!

YOU'RE THE BEST!

EEEEEK!

HIS EYES ARE TOTALLY WHITE.

IS HE EVEN ALIVE?

青竜

BAKI!

BAKI!

BAKI!

BAKI!

BAKI!

BAKI!

YES, BUT... HE SHOULD BE JUST FINE.

I MEAN, THAT KID HAD THE NERVES FOR HIS RIGHT ARM AND EYE TORN OUT.

SO IS BAKI GOING TO BE ALRIGHT ?

HEH HEH... THERE HE GOES AGAIN.

THE SURGEON HERE IS THE BEST IN THE WORLD.

DOCTOR ROOM

EXTINGUISHER

XX DRUGS

XX DRUGS

DOCTOR ROOM

HMM...

HM...

CAN MY NERVES BE RECONNECTED ?

H-HOW IS IT?

UM...

NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT...

OH, THAT WAS A *GREAT* MATCH!

OH...

...

...BUT IF IT'S THIS MINOR, I DON'T SEE WHY THEY *WOULDN'T* RECONNECT...

TUG

WELL, IT DEPENDS ON HOW THEY WERE CUT...

GOOD AS NEW.

JUST A DAB OF CEMEDINE GLUE AND...

PLOP!

MR. SHINOGI'S CONDITION...

AH.. UM... ALSO...

HM?

OO-HYA HA HA!

...

FOR THAT...

SHWF

M-MR. SHINOGI!

...

...YOU CAN ASK THE MAN HIMSELF.

TIME FOR A MEETING!

WELL, THIS IS QUITE SHAMEFUL.

WHY DIDN'T YOU BREAK MY ARM?

Y-YES!

BAKI HANMA.

MR. SHINOGI.

IF YOU HAD JUST APPLIED A FEW HUNDRED GRAMS OF YOUR WEIGHT BACKWARDS, MY ARM WOULD'VE SNAPPED CLEAN.

...

...AND I DIDN'T HAVE THE STRENGTH TO FEND YOU OFF IF THAT HAPPENED.

EVEN IF BOTH YOUR ARMS WERE BROKEN, YOU'D STILL FIGHT BACK WITH KICKS ...

I KNEW BREAKING YOUR ARM WOULDN'T HAVE FINISHED YOU OFF.

KNOCKING YOU OUT LIKE THAT WAS MY BEST OPTION.

ゴロリ
ROLL
BAKI.
HUH...?
YES!
MAKE SURE YOU KEEP WINNING!
YEAH.
THANKS!

AYUP!

I'LL BE ON MY WAY.

OKAY, DOCTOR.

HM?

SLAM

AAH!!

BAKI IS THE *ONLY* PERSON WHO'D KEEP FIGHTIN' WITH TWO BROKEN ARMS...

NOPE, NO SIR, NO ONE ELSE COULD PULL THAT OFF.

LOOKS LIKE HE GOTCHA BEAT, SHINOGI...

...EXIT TO THE SECOND BASEMENT FLOOR VIA THE DOZEN OR SO ELEVATORS INSTALLED ON THE SIXTH BASEMENT LEVEL...

AFTER THE EVENT IS OVER, THE SPECTATORS...

THIS WAY THEY CAN THEN **DISCREETLY** BE DISPERSED AMONG THE AUDIENCE OF A ROCK CONCERT THAT WAS ALSO HELD IN THE TOKYO DOME TODAY...

SUPPRESSING THEIR URGE TO TALK ABOUT WHAT THEY SAW...

TOKYO DOME
...AS THE FANS RETURN TO THEIR DAILY LIVES.
...THEIR HEARTS FLUTTER WITH ANTICIPATION FOR THE NEXT INVITATION...

YOU SAID BEFORE THAT THE REASON BAKI FIGHTS IS SOME KINDA "TEAR JERKER," RIGHT?
HEY, OLD MAN.
MHMM! THAT SURE WAS A GOOD SHOW!
OOH, INDEED I DID.

24
WELL...
LONG STORY SHORT...
THE BASIC GIST OF IT IS, HE WANTS TO SAVE HIS SICK FATHER.
S-SICK?
IS HE SOME KINDA WEAKLING?
BAKI'S POPS, THAT IS.
HEH HEH.
PERISH THE THOUGHT...
HE'S THE STRONGEST BEING ON THE PLANET.
HIS POPS, THAT IS.

...ZERO SENSE.

OLD MAN, YOU ARE MAKING...

...

TOKYO DOME

GOODBYE FOR ANOTHER MONTH...

SKRRRR

HEY, ASS-HOLE!

SLAM

CAPTAIN STRYDOM !!!

OH!

#28 Undercard Wrestler, Junichi Hanada

WHEN DID YOU COME BACK TO JAPAN?

MR. STRYDOM!

SO YOU WERE WATCHING...

OH, WOW.

I SAW YOUR MATCH.

HUH?

VROOOOOM

ヴォオオオン

IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU, CHAMPION?

WHO WAS THAT FOREIGNER ?

THIS IS QUITE THE ALL-STAR LINEUP.
WELL, WELL.

..KITO.

HEAVY-WEIGHT JUDO EXPERT...

...CHAN.

CHINESE KEMPO ARTIST...

...NAITO.

FREESTYLE WRESTLER...

...KURO-KAWA.

...AND COMBAT SAMBO FIGHTER ...

COMBAT KARATE MASTER, SHIMADA ...

...GATHER HERE AT TOKUGAWA MANOR?

TO WHAT DO I OWE THE HONOR OF HAVING SUCH GREAT INDIVIDUALS...

THERE'S A NASTY RUMOR GOING AROUND...

WHAT MIGHT THAT BE?

OHO.

GRP...

WE HAVE COME HERE TO ASK YOU A QUESTION.

OF COURSE, WE HAVE ALREADY DISMISSED IT AS BASELESS AND BLATANT MIS-INFORMATION...

THAT SAYS YOU'RE ALLOWING *JUNICHI HANADA* TO CHALLENGE BAKI...

EEK!

NOBLE ELDER !!!

THE NEXT CHALLENGER WILL INDEED BE JUNICHI HANADA.

IT'S NOT MIS-INFORMATION.

I WILL RETURN IMMEDIATELY WITH REPLACEMENTS!

PLEASE FORGIVE ME!

SPLASH

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE YOU THINKING, SIR?!

...WAS BUILT FROM THE TIRELESS EFFORTS OF COMPETITIVE FIGHTERS FROM THE TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS.

THE HISTORY OF THE TOKYO DOME UNDERGROUND ARENA...

NOBLE ELDER...

WHAT'RE YOU GETTING SO WORKED UP FOR?

THAT MAN SHOULD *NOT* BE ALLOWED TO CHALLENGE HIM!!

I SECOND THAT NOTION!

WITH BAKI HANMA— A BOY WITH NO SET FIGHTING STYLE— REIGNING AS THE CHAMPION, BRINGING IN A CHALLENGER FROM A MORE TRADITIONALIST BACKGROUND WOULD BE A GOOD STEP TOWARDS TAKING THE ARENA BACK TO ITS ROOTS...

AND HANADA HAS THAT ***STRENGTH!***

THE UNDERGROUND ARENA'S HISTORY HAS ALWAYS BEEN DEFINED BY A COMPETITION FOR SUPREMACY BY THE STRONGEST FIGHTERS ALIVE.

THAT'S WHERE YOU'RE WRONG.

SMACK

PUFF

HANADA IS AN *UNDERCARD PRO-WRESTLER !!!*

SO WHAT'S THE REAL ISSUE YOU HAVE HERE?

EEEEEEEK!!

HEH HEH... AND THAT EXCEPTIONAL UNDERCARD HAS JUST ARRIVED.

WHPSH

NOOOO !!!

OH MY...

P-
PLEASE...
STOP...

WHAT DO
WE HAVE
HERE...

H-
HANADA!

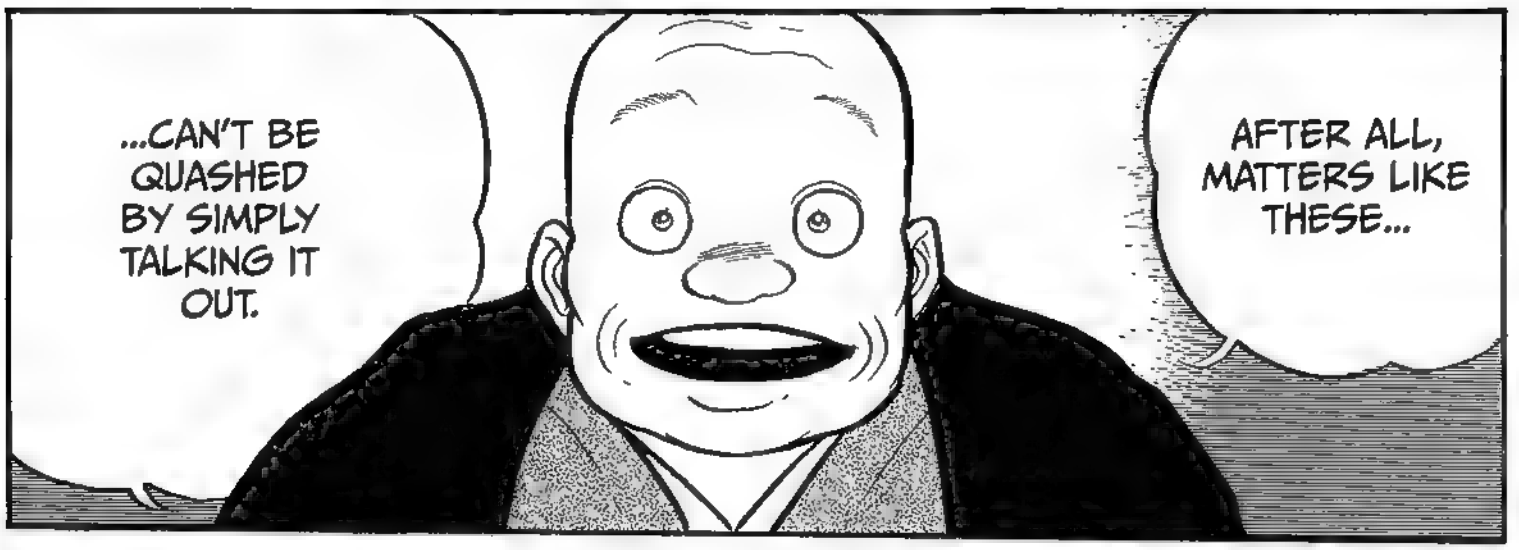
OH,
HEY THERE,
EVERYONE...

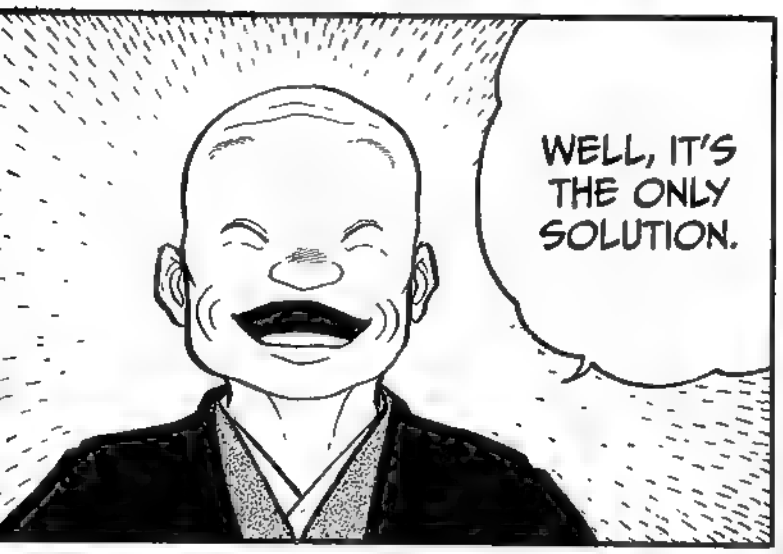
GOOD
OF YOU TO
COME...

HANADA!

W-WHAT
THE HELL
DO YOU
THINK
YOU'RE
DOING?

WHEN I HEARD YOU WERE ALL COMING BY, I INVITED HIM OVER AS WELL.
I PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE OBJECTIONS FROM THE TRADITIONALISTS.


...CAN'T BE QUASHED BY SIMPLY TALKING IT OUT.
AFTER ALL, MATTERS LIKE THESE...


WELL, IT'S THE ONLY SOLUTION.

I GOTTA FIGHT A MATCH?
AWW, REALLY?
...

ARE YOU TELLING US TO FIGHT RIGHT HERE...?
OHO.

THEY'RE ALWAYS LIKE THAT!

THAT'S JUST HOW THEY ARE!

THEY'RE SAYING THEY WON'T APPROVE OF YOUR CHALLENGE OTHERWISE.

W-WHY, YOU...

AT THIS HOUR? CAN WE NOT, PLEEEASE?

MASTER, C'MON!

BRING BACK THAT GIRL FROM BEFORE AND STUFF!

I SAY WE PARTY TONIGHT INSTEAD!

AWW C'MON, WHERE'S THE HARM, SIR?

NOBLE ELDER!

...IF YOU SAY YOU WON'T FIGHT.

WELL, THAT IS AN ISSUE, THEN...

I ASSUME WE CAN USE THIS SPACE?

...YOU SISSY BITCH.

GET DOWN HERE...

...MY BOSS'S ORDERS.

OKAY, OKAY, OKAY. I WON'T DISOBEY ...

SIGH

YOU HEARD THE MAN. ♡

THOUGH I FEEL LIKE WE DON'T HAVE TO FIGHT...

...TO KNOW HOW THIS'LL END.

OR ALL FIVE AT ONCE?

SO DO I TAKE 'EM ONE AT A TIME?

CHNGL

WHIPSH

I'LL BE MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR YOU. NOW PUT THAT ON, SO I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT KILLING YOU.

THANKS FOR BEING SO...

KRISH

PWIP

...CONSIDERATE!

KRRASH!!

BUT MY FACE IS TOUGHER THAN THESE SUPER SAFE BRAND HEAD GUARDS.

MY FACE IS MUCH TOUGHER THAN THIS SILLY LITTLE THING.
#29 Take Your Title Shot!

SHIMADA'S RIGHT HOOK HAS SHATTERED DOZENS OF THOSE HEADGUARDS AT KARATE TOURNAMENTS.

...BUT NOT IN POWER!

THERE'S A 20-KILO GAP IN WEIGHT...

GRR...

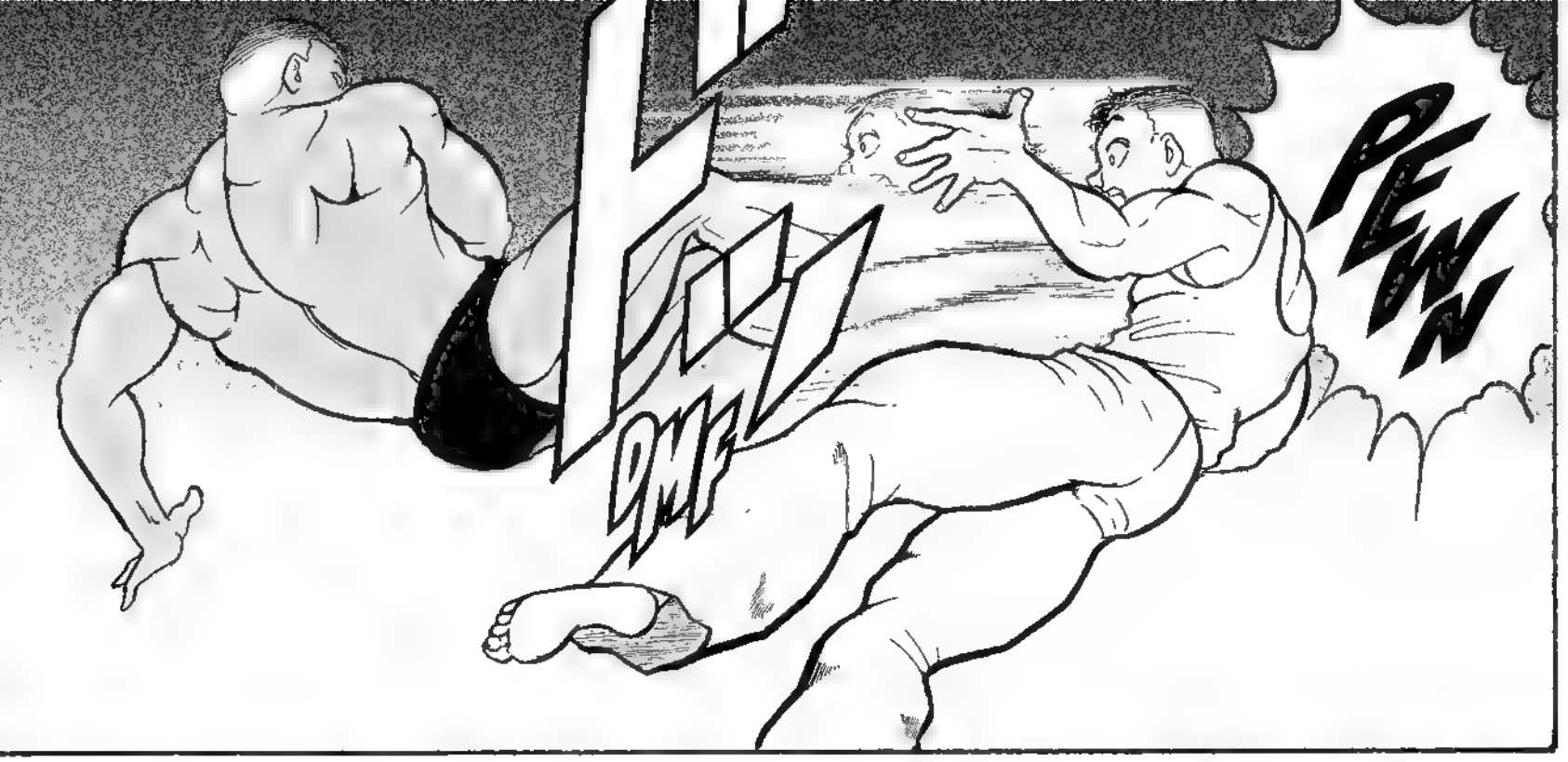
NGH...

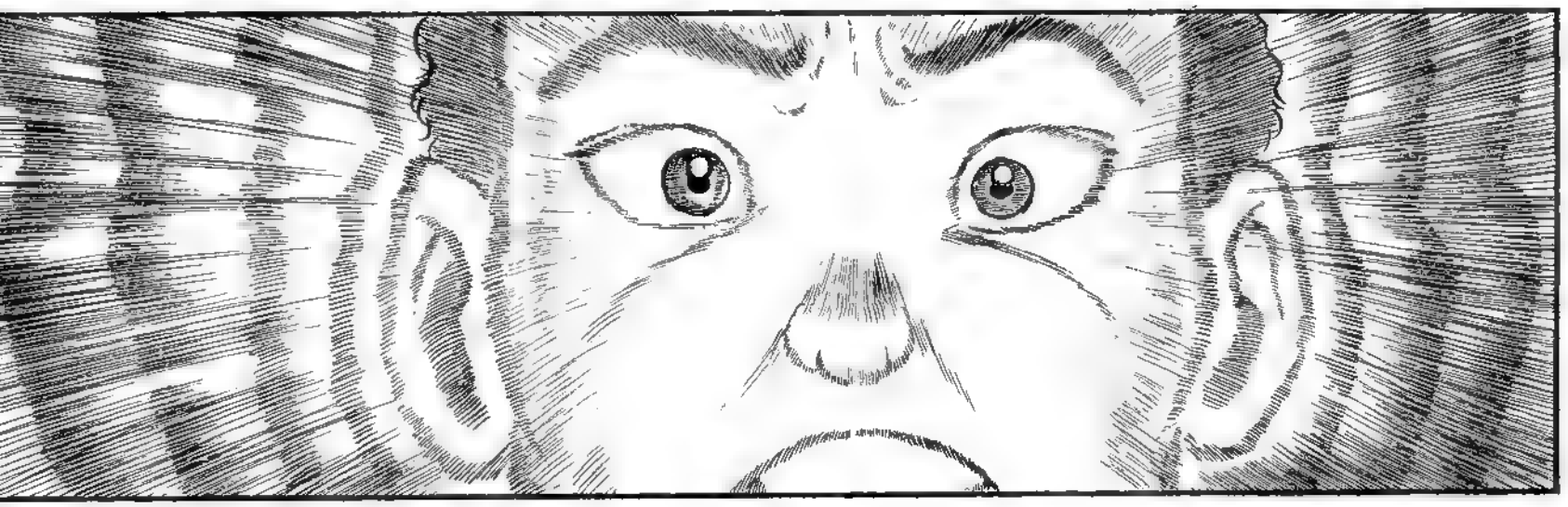
WHP

!!!

KRAAAK

HIS RIGHT HOOK CONNECTED !!!


PEWW



KA-DOOM
KRAK

LURCH...

HE SURE IS TOUGH! HE TOOK SHIMADA'S RIGHT HOOK HEAD ON AND DIDN'T EVEN WOBBLE...

A-A DROP-KICK!

IF I'M REMEMBERIN' RIGHT, YOU'RE MR. SATO, THE JUDO REP?

AT 140 KILOS, NOT EVEN A WRESTLER COULD OUTMUSCLE SATO!!!

ALRIGHT!

HE GRABBED HIM! HE'S GOT HIM NOW!!!

VIOLA

DON'T WORRY, I'LL BE THE ONE TO TAKE DOWN BAKI.

KRAK

SQUISH

CHAN...

YOUR DEFENSE AGAINST STRIKES IS PRETTY POOR, SATO!

HYO-EEEEE !!!

A CLEAN HIT!!!

WHA...?

...

...

KRUNCH

NOW THEN ...

I THINK THIS ONE NEEDS TO GAIN SOME WEIGHT BEFORE HE CAN DO ME IN WITH ONE HIT.

DWOOF...

...JUST LIKE THAT, WE'RE DOWN TO TWO.

...

YOUR WRESTLING ISN'T A GOOD MATCH FOR SOMEONE AS TOUGH AS HANADA.

MR. NAITO.

...THERE'S A MESSAGE I NEED TO DELIVER TO HIM PERSONALLY.

BESIDES ...

...SAMBO GUY!

YO...

UGHHHHH ...

?

?

WUUUUUH?

THE *OLD MAN?*

I PROMISED MASTER MOTOBE THAT I'D BRING YOU BACK TO HIM.

SHU

DART

PWAP

TWST

WHAM

DMF
NEITHER OF THEM ARE BUDGING!!!

PSSH! YOU'RE A SUCKER FOR LISTENING TO THAT GEEZER!

"DO WHATEVER YOU WANT, JUST DON'T KILL HIM," HE SAID.

MASTER MOTOBE GAVE ME PERMISSION.

GRAP

SKRK

I PROUDLY USE ONE, THOUGH!!!

...

H-HE STOPPED HIM WITH SHEER BRUTE FORCE!

WEAPONS ARE THE ONLY THING FORBIDDEN IN THE UNDERGROUND ARENA, RIGHT?

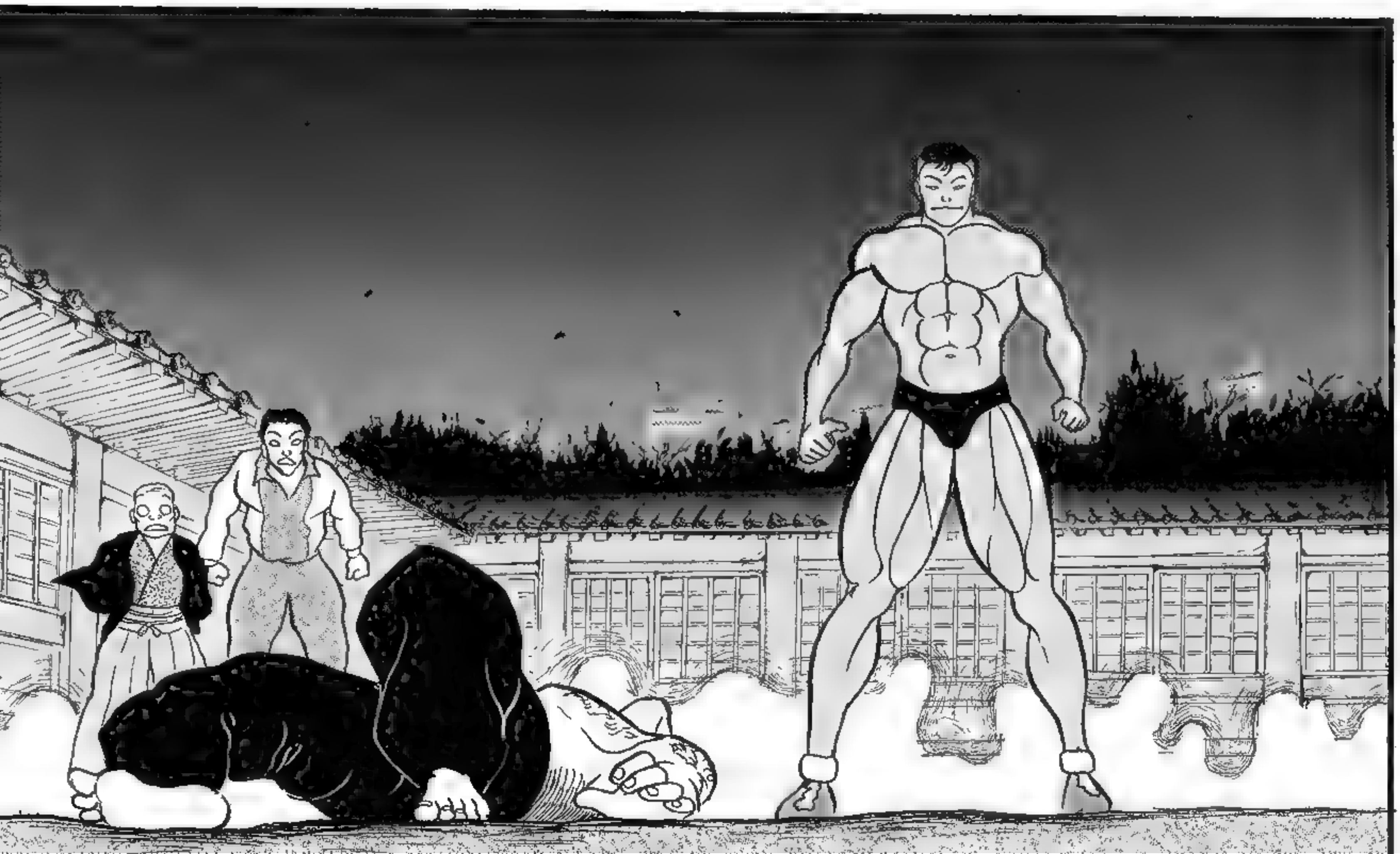
HEY, OLD MAN.

SMK

ZOOM

WHA...?

CRRNCH



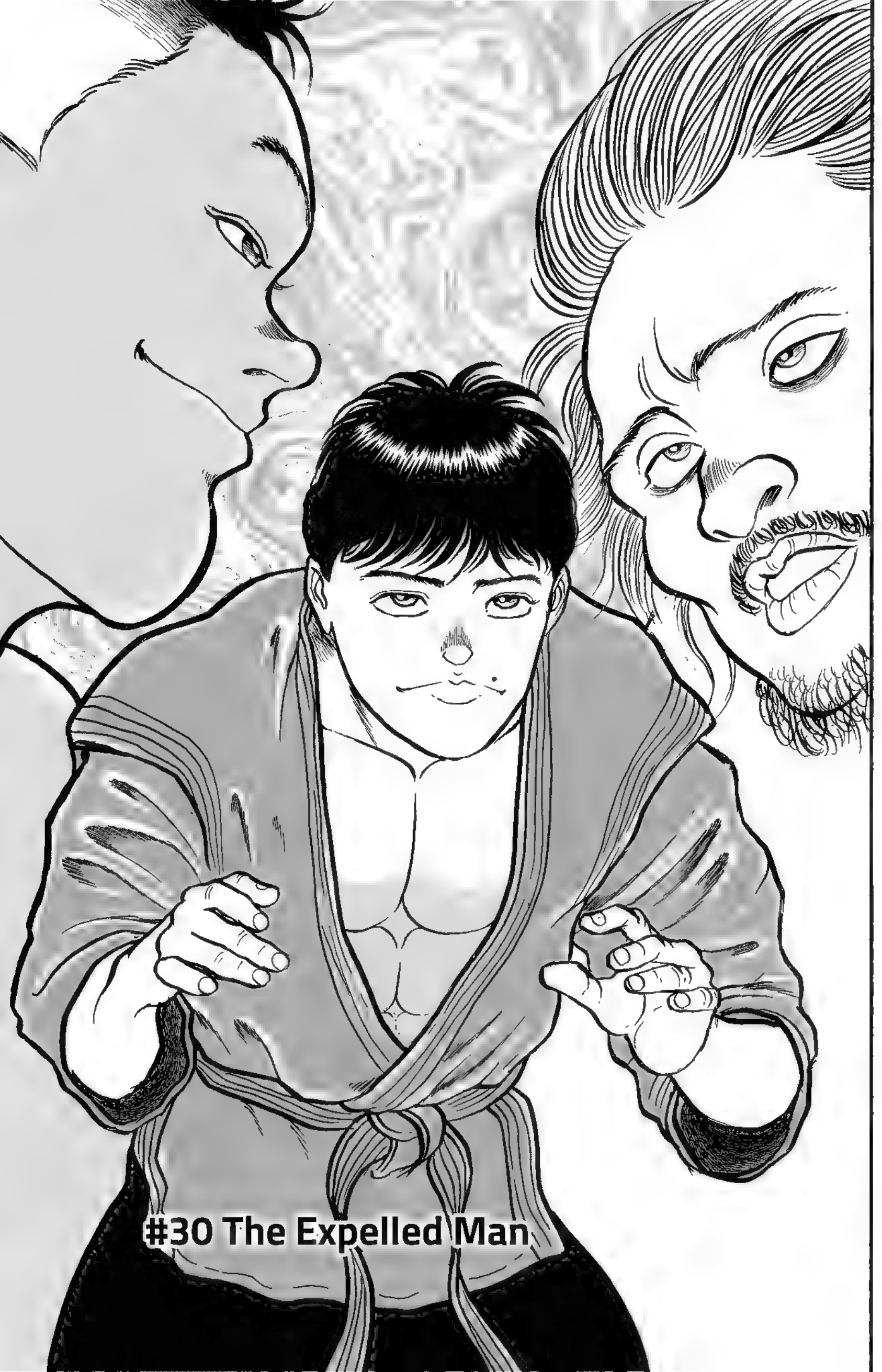
MY WEAPON IS CALLED *THE FLOOR.*

OKAY, YOU'RE UP.

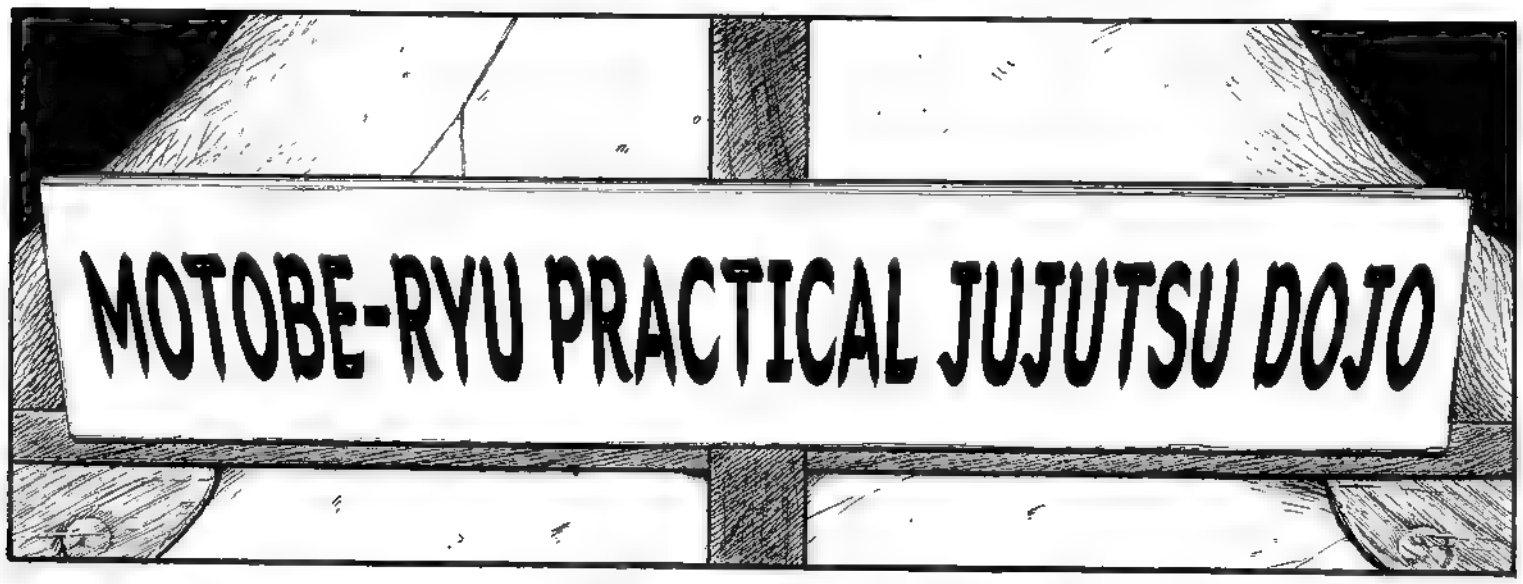
HUH ?!

MY BOY BAKI HAS GOT ONE *HELL* OF A CHALLENGER ON HIS HANDS...

NO... I'LL PASS...


#30 The Expelled Man

MOTOBE-RYU PRACTICAL JUJUTSU DOJO


MOTOBE-RYU PRACTICAL JUJUTSU DOJO

FLARE!

GRK
GRK...

KRAAAASH
FLOOOOOP

...

I-I GIVE UP, SIRRRR!

AMAZING ...

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, SIR!

A...

...OF YOU TO COME.

GOOD...

...BUT I HAVE NO IDEA HOW YOU JUST DID THAT...

I WANT TO SAY I LEARNED A LOT...

YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MATCH, SIR?

OH...

SO THIS ISN'T HELPING YOU FORM YOUR ANTI-HANADA STRATEGY?

FOOOOOO

THAT WOULD BE THE KEY TO YOUR VICTORY...

I HEARD THAT MR. HANADA TRAINED UNDER YOU, SO I WAS HOPING TO FIND SOMETHING I COULD USE AGAINST HIM...

YOU PROBABLY DON'T HAVE ANY EXPERIENCE AGAINST A FIGHTER LIKE HIM.

HANADA IS STRONG.

ADDITIONALLY, HE IS THE ONLY STUDENT TO HAVE FULLY MASTERED THE MOTOBE-RYU STYLE.

BENEATH HIS CHEERFUL AND FOOLISH VENEER IS AN UNBELIEVABLE LEVEL OF BLOODLUST AND SOME BRUTAL ANALYTICAL SKILLS.

YES... OUT OF ALL MY TECHNIQUES, THERE ISN'T A SINGLE ONE THAT HANADA CANNOT DO.

H-HE FULLY MASTERED IT?!

INCLUDING, OF COURSE, THE MOVE THAT YOU JUST SAW...

I BELIEVE PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT YOUR FATHER, *YUJIRO HANMA*, WITH A SIMILAR REVERENCE.

YOU MAY BE THE MARTIAL ARTS WORLD'S LATEST SUPERSTAR, BUT HANADA IS ITS UNDISPUTED PRODIGY.

DO YOU KNOW MY DAD...?!

...BUT CONSIDERING HOW MUCH TROUBLE YOU HAD WITH THAT *CORD-CUTTER* KID, I SINCERELY DOUBT YOU STAND A CHANCE...

ARGH, HOT!

I HEARD YOU WANT TO FIGHT YOUR OWN FATHER, YUJIRO HANMA...

SWI...

TO THINK YOU WOULD STRUGGLE AGAINST SUCH A PALTRY OPPONENT...

BACK THEN...

YOU COULD TRY UNTIL YOU'RE BLUE IN THE FACE, BUT AS YOU STAND NOW, YOU WILL *NEVER* BEAT YUJIRO...

BAKI.

WITH EVERY MOMENT THAT PASSES, EVEN AS WE SPEAK, YUJIRO CONTINUES TO GROW EVER STRONGER!!!

...HIS STRENGTH EXPANDS AT THE SPEED OF LIGHT!

JUST LIKE THE VAST AND INFINITE COSMOS...

YEAH... I'M NOT A PRODIGY...

I-IS SOMETHING WRONG, CHAMPION?

AND I PROBABLY CAN'T COME CLOSE TO MR. HANADA IN TERMS OF POWER AND SPEED, EITHER.

IN TERMS OF WEIGHT, I'M SMALLER ...

BUT, WITH ALL THAT SAID, MR. MOTOBE...

...I STILL CAN'T AFFORD TO LOSE TO MR. HANADA.

I CAN'T ALLOW MYSELF TO LOSE TO THE LIKES OF HIM, SIR.

FYAH HAH HAH!

...AND *THAT'S* HOW YOU REFER TO HIM?

"THE LIKES OF HIM"? HE'S LITERALLY MASTERED AN ENTIRE MARTIAL ART...

HEH HEH HEH...

IT'S BEEN A YEAR SINCE HE LEFT THE DOJO OF HIS OWN ACCORD...

KI-CHIK

I HUNG HIS NAMEPLATE HERE BECAUSE I COULDN'T GET HIM OUT OF MY HEAD...

*NAMEPLATE: JUNICHI HANADA

AS OF TODAY, HE'S EXPELLED...

I WILL HELP YOU, AS BEST AS I CAN.

...JUST HOW FAR YOU CAN GO AGAINST A PRODIGY.

MAYBE IT'S CHILDISH, BUT I HAVE A NEW DESIRE TO SEE...

KORAKUEN HALL

IN FIVE MINUTES, ELEVEN SECONDS, BOB MARSH WINS VIA PINFALL!

BAM

BAM

IT'S ALRIGHT, HANADA !!!

MR. HANA-DAAAA!

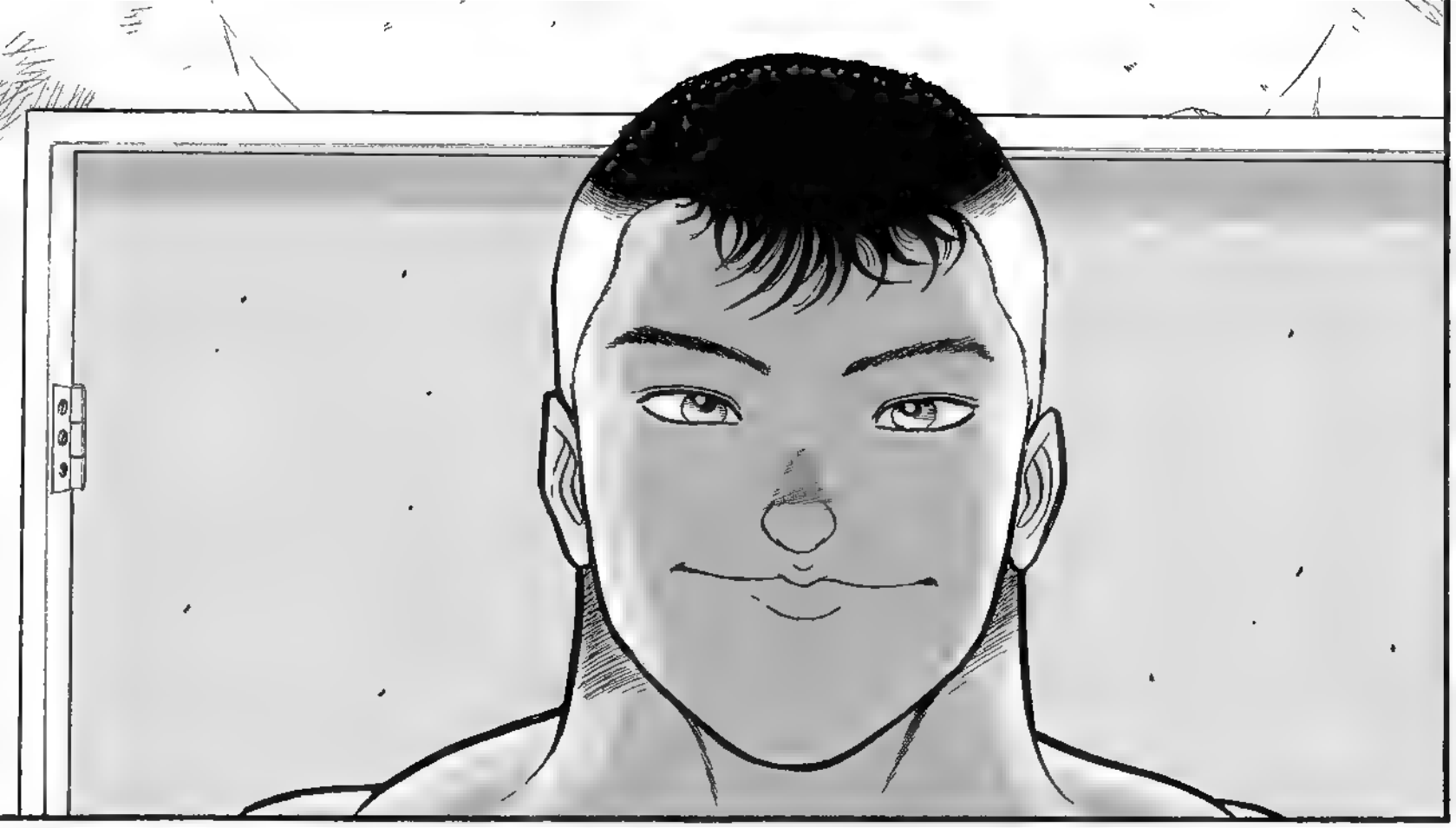
SLAM

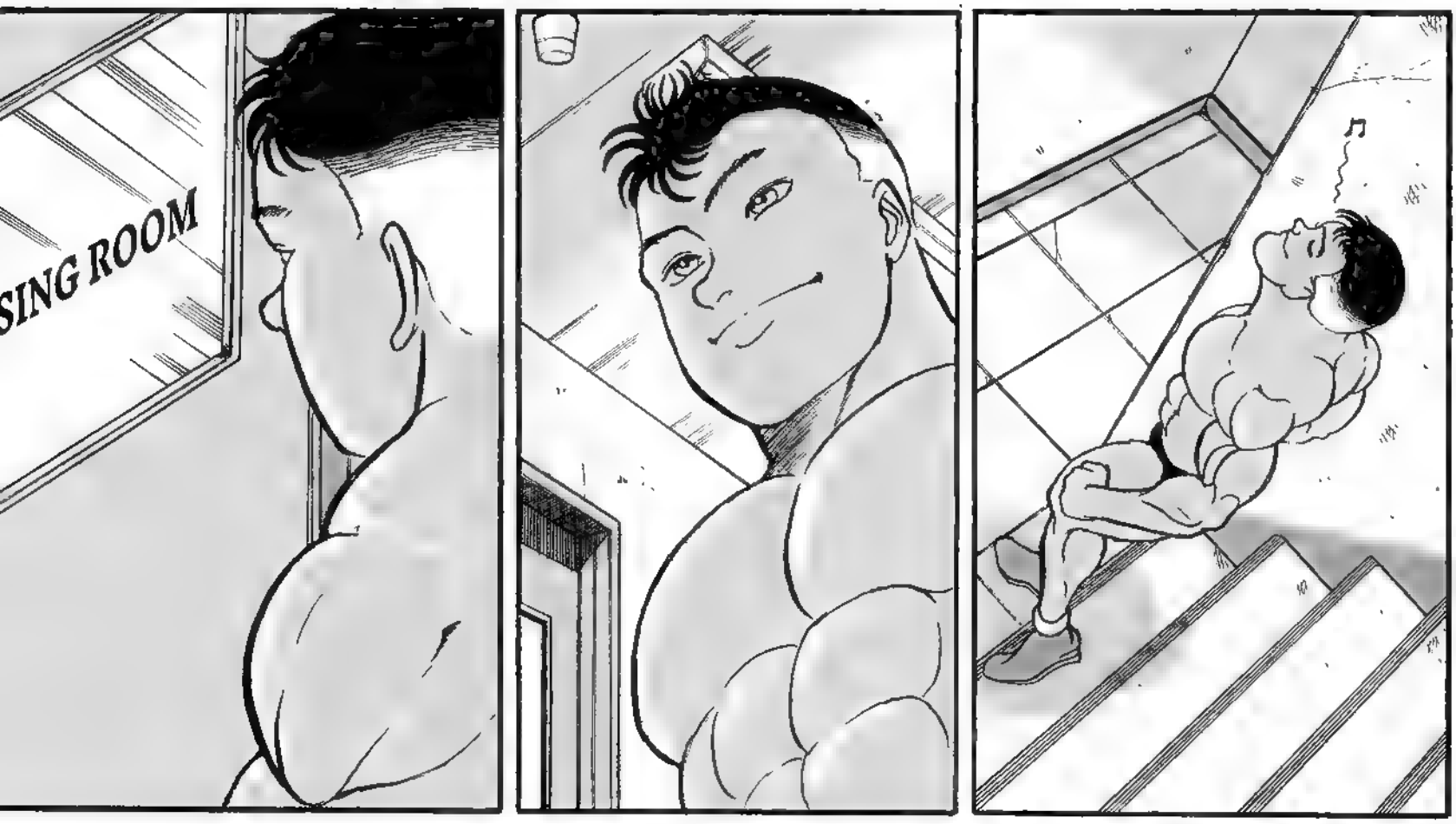
HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF




SING ROOM

BAM

YOU SOLD THAT FINISH PERFECTLY! WE REALLY NAILED IT OUT THERE!

OOOH, HANADA!

KRAK ATTACK

I WAS TOLD I'D BE GETTING PINNED...

SQUEEZE...

...BUT NO ONE MENTIONED THE *KICKS* AFTER THE FALL.

S-S-SORRY! I JUST GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY...

Y-YOU CRAZY SON OF A BITCH!

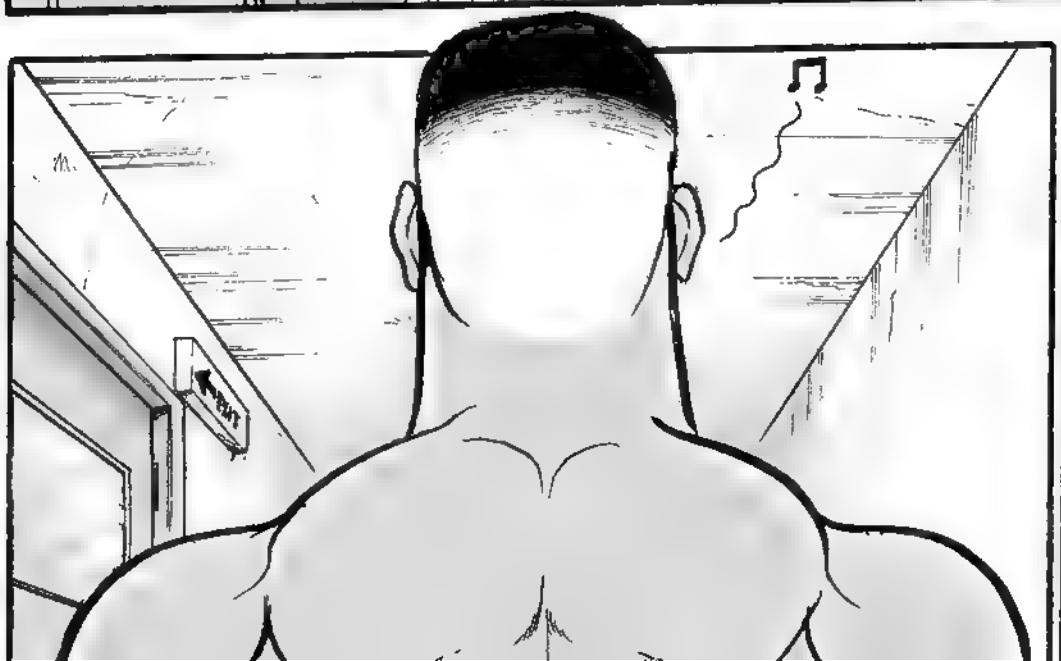
YOU THINK YOU CAN GET AWAY WITH THAT HERE?!
TEACH HIM A GODDAMN LESSON!!!

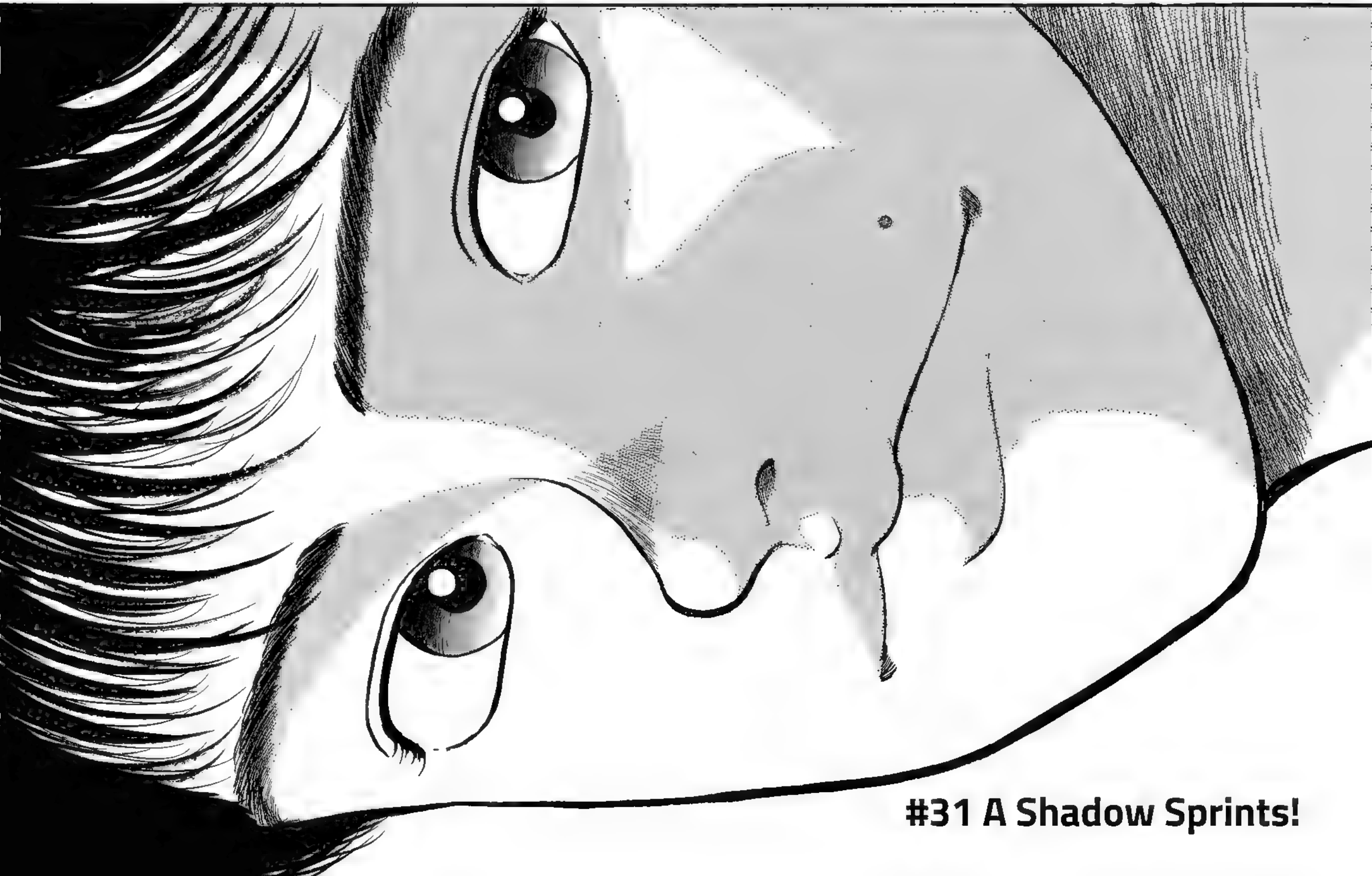
FRAAAASH

KLOOOOP
...

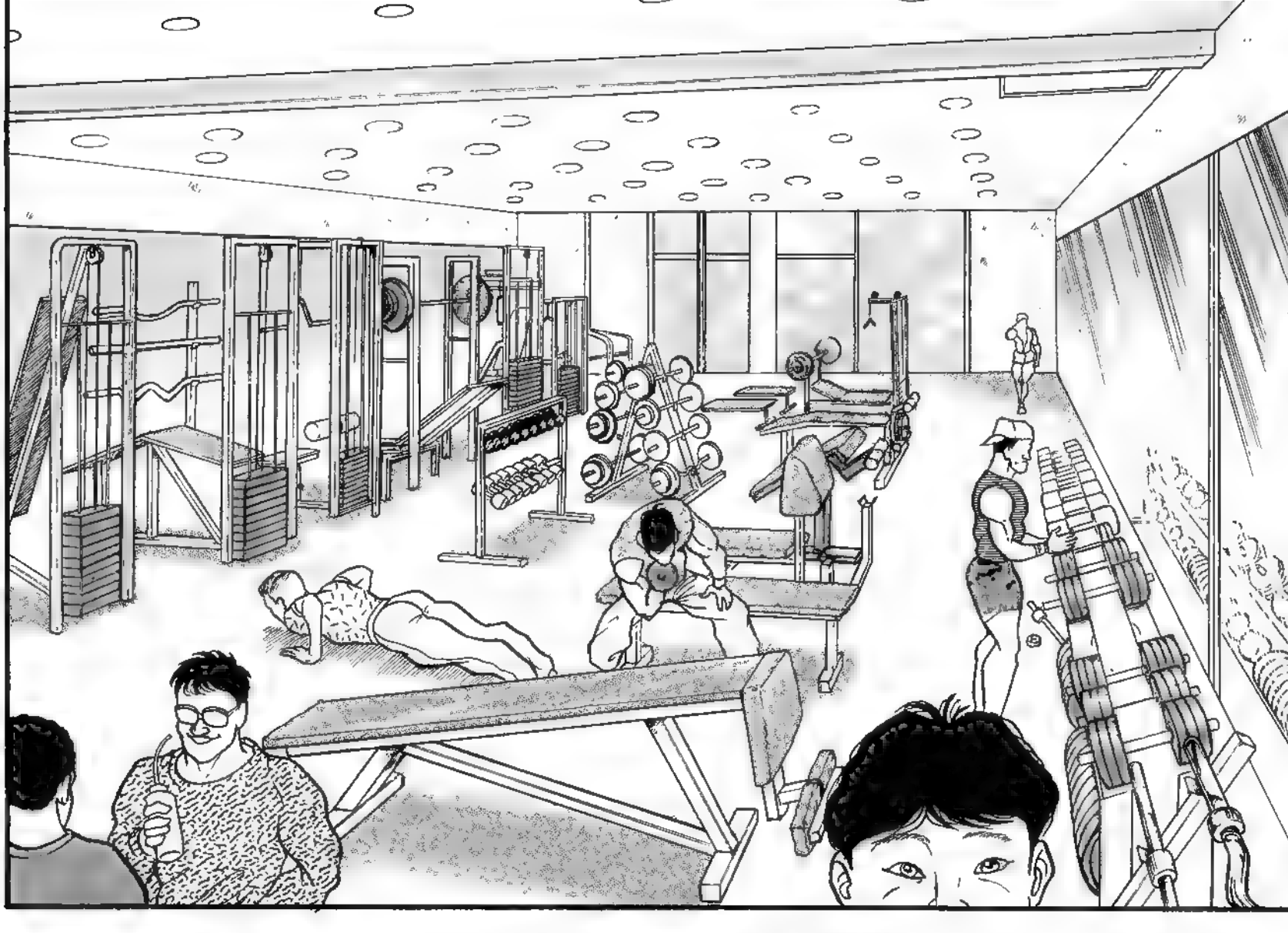
STEP ASIDE...

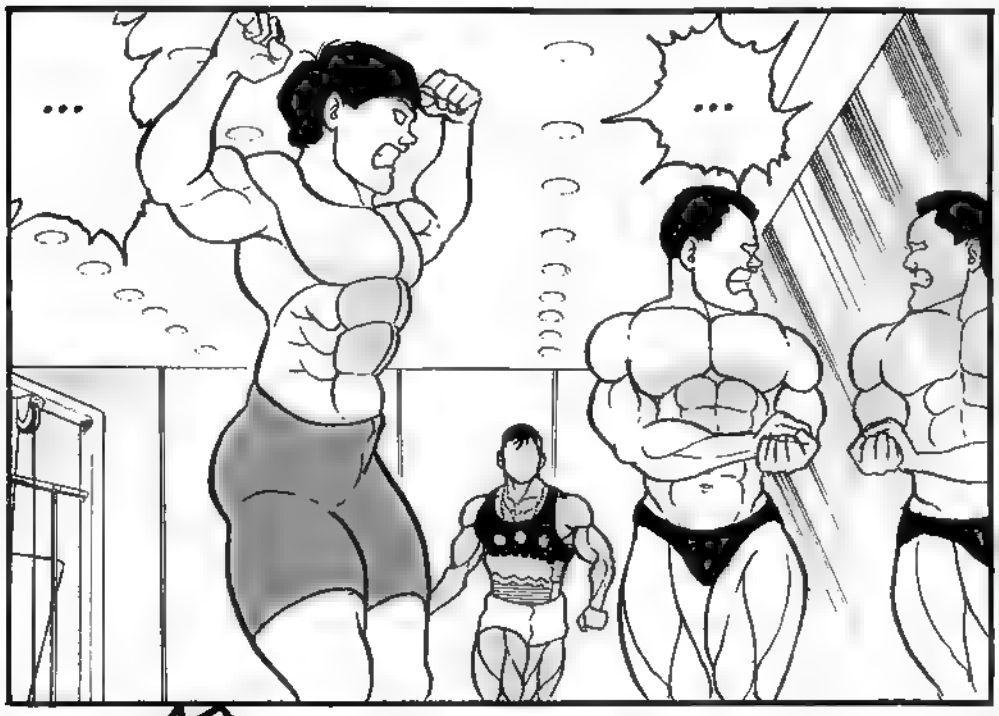
...WORLD'S STRONGEST MAN.





#31 A Shadow Sprints!




...
...

!
SHOVE
SHOVE
OH!
HGH

HUH?

IT'S THAT WRESTLER, HANADA.

ISN'T THAT HANADA ?

WHY IS HE HERE?

...

HE WENT TO THE ZOO-KILO SQUAT RACK...

WHAT'S HE DOING ...?

HE'S ADDING MORE ...

KA-SHUNK

KA-SHUNK

KA-SHUNK

KA-SHUNK

KA-SHUNK

TH-THREE HUNDRED KILOS...!!!

MNSH...

H-HEY, STOP...

MNSH...

...

MNSH...

AND WITHOUT A BELT TOO...

HE'S GOING FOR IT!

SWF...

...

...
WRNCH
GRRRRGH
OH... HE'S ACTUALLY DOING IT!

SNAP

MNSH

WHOA! HIS NOSE IS BLEEDING !!!

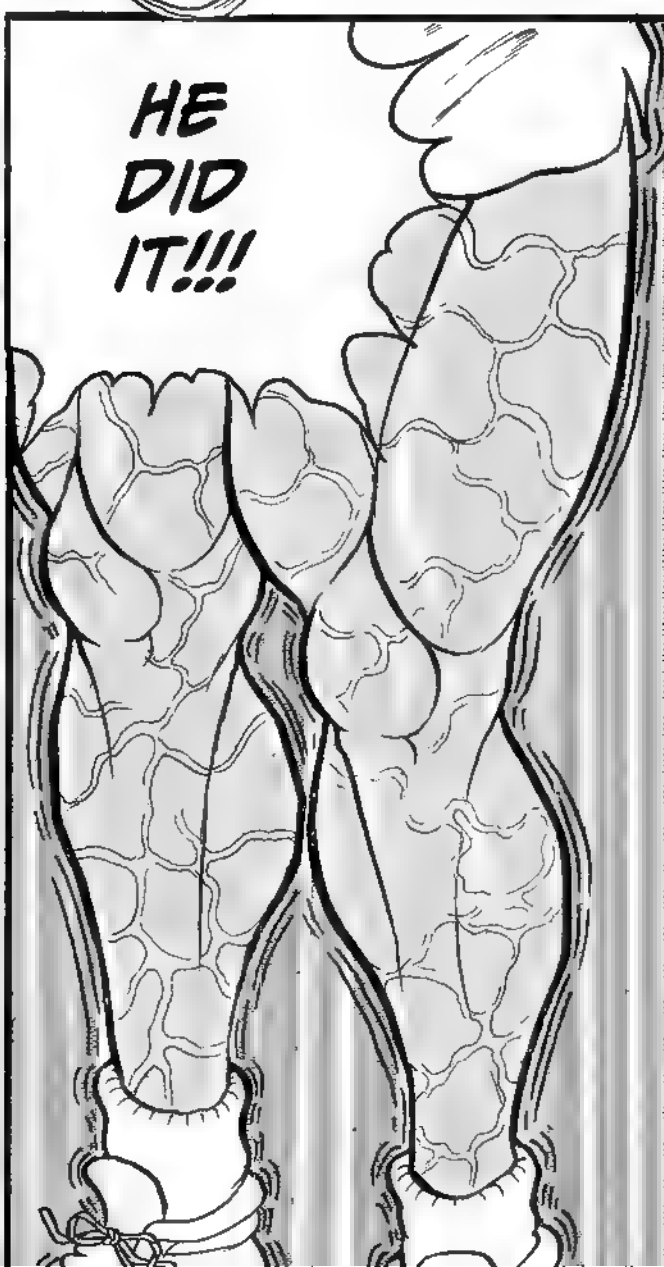
BSH

HE'S GONNA GO FOR ONE MORE?!

...

DRIP
DRIP

HMPH!


HE DID IT!!!

GOOD JOB...
G...

THAT'S A JUMBO-SIZED DOSE OF VITAMINS...

WHAT'S *HIS* DEAL?

...

SEE YA LATER, BOYS!

KRNCH

KRNCH

SWOOSH!!

BAKI HANMA!

NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENS, THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL THAT YOU'LL BE ABLE TO WIN!

IT'S ALMOST TOO BAD...

MY ANALYSIS IS COMPLETE!

AND IN OUR MATCH THREE DAYS FROM NOW... I'LL PROVE THAT TO YOU IN UNDER ONE MINUTE!

GRIP

!

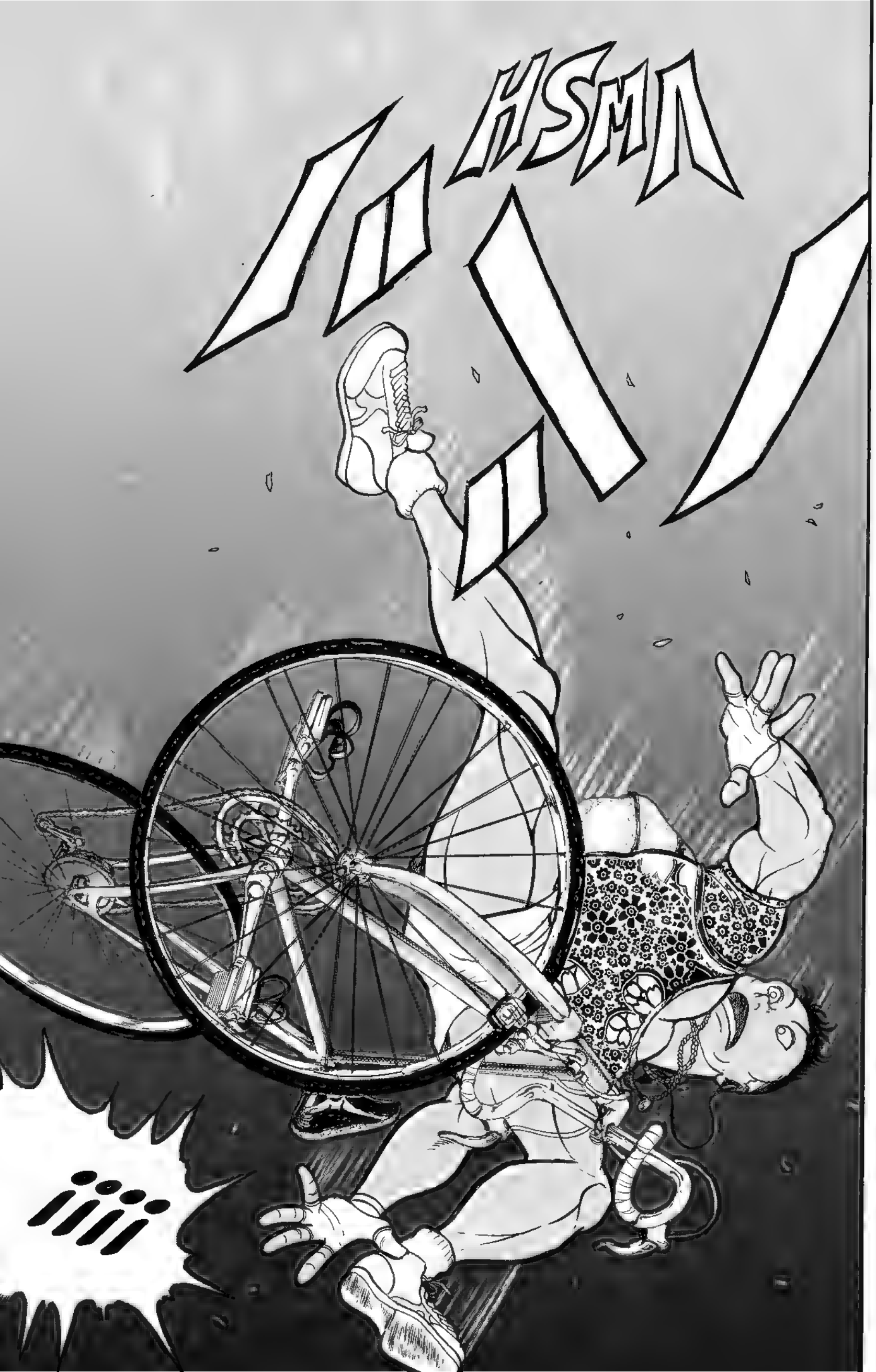
GRIP

WHOAA-AAAAAA!

HUH?

...

CHIRP CHIRP..


HSMA
iiii

MOTOBE-RYU PRACTICAL JUJUTSU DOJO

SLASH

!

THUD

NGH ...!

BAM
SLAM
...

DMF
KONK
SLAM
SLAM
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOU'RE ONE TOUGH CUSTOMER ...
...

...BEGAN WITH MY DAD SLAMMING ME DOWN ONTO CONCRETE.

MY MARTIAL ARTS TRAINING...

THAT'S THE "STRONGEST HUMAN ON EARTH"— YUJIRO HANMA, FOR YOU.

PLEASE STOP CALLING HIM THAT.

...

...ISN'T *HUMAN* AT ALL!

WHAT HE PRACTICES...

HMM...

I DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU...

KOFF...

ONE MORE TIME ...?

...I COULD FACE YUJIRO HANMA ONE MORE TIME...

...BUT IF I HAD HANADA'S LEVEL OF TALENT...

ANYWAY, HANADA'S STRENGTH CAN'T BE IGNORED...

...

FORGET IT...

A-A
BICYCLE
?

MOTOBE-RYU PRACTICAL JUJUTSU

TWITCH...

TWITCH...

TWITCH...

H-HANA-DAAA!!!

BAKI
THE GRAPPLER

THE GRAPPLER
BACK

#32 The Giant Descends

HANA-
DAAAA!!

H...

WHO DID THIS...?!

HANG IN THERE, HANADA!

IT'S MY OLD MAN...

IT...

MY FATHER IS ON THE MOVE...

HANA-DAAAA!

...THEN IT *MUST* BE YUJIRO HANMA. I CAN'T THINK OF ANYONE ELSE.

IF THERE'S ANYONE WHO COULD TAKE DOWN AN UNDERGROUND FIGHTER OUT ON THE STREETS...

I'M GOING TO CALL AN AMBULANCE!

MR. MOTOBE!

W-WHAT IS THIS ...?

AAH, LOOK WHAT THEY'VE DONE.

MOTOBE-RYU PRACTICAL JUJUTSU

...BE HERE SOON.

THE AMBULANCE SHOULD...

HUH...?

BAKI...

THIS *ISN'T* THE WORK OF YUJIRO HANMA.

LOOK.

...

IT WAS LEFT BY THE HEEL OF A SHOE.

THE SMEAR ON HIS CHEEK, HERE...

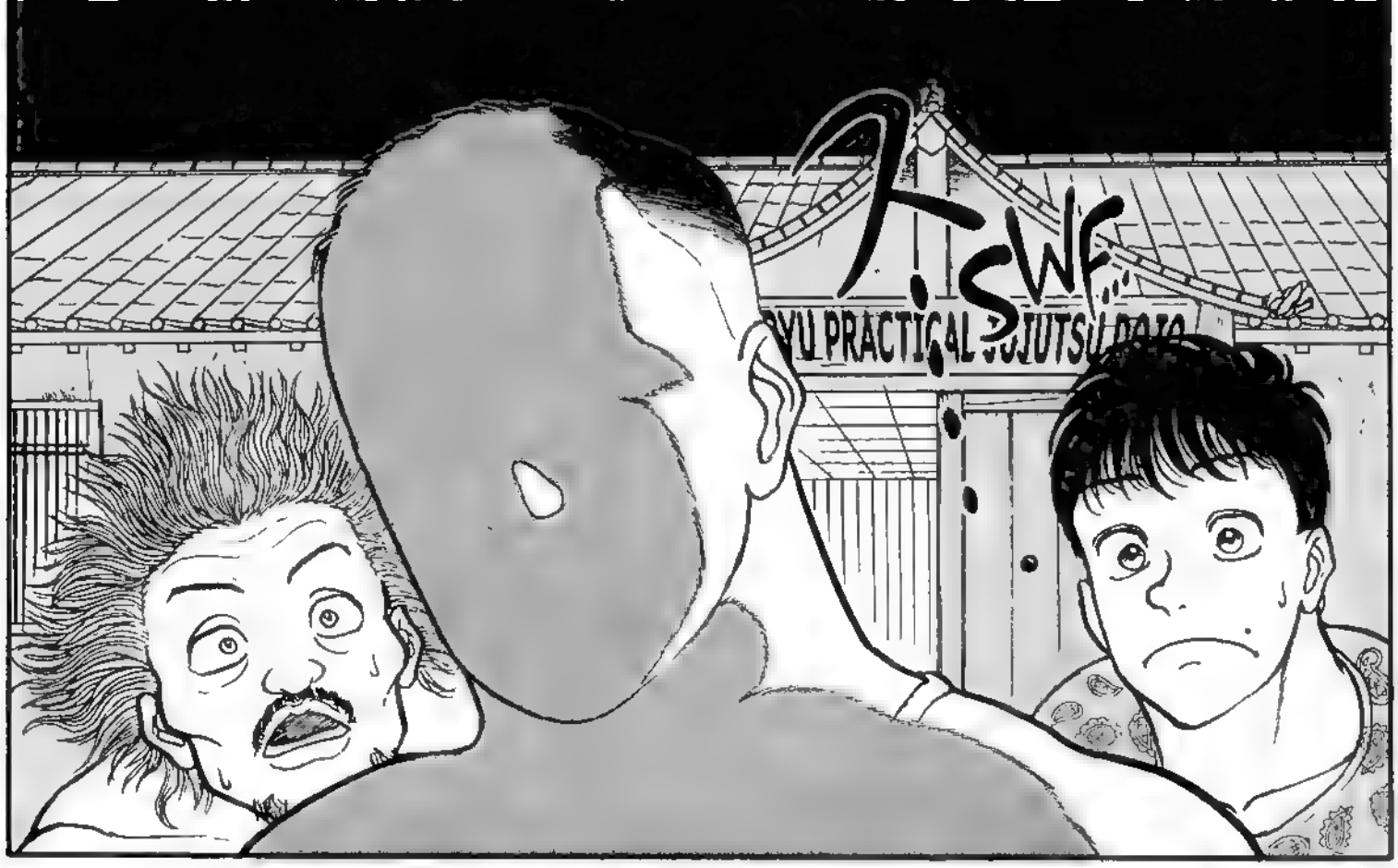
...THE ATTACKER'S SHOE SIZE IS LIKELY WELL OVER 40 CENTIMETERS.

JUDGING BY THE SIZE OF THIS HEEL...

...AND PULVERIZED BOTH HIM *AND* HIS BICYCLE.

WHICH MEANS, WHOEVER DID THIS IS OVER TWO METERS TALL.

FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, A GIANT MAN, STANDING OVER TWO METERS TALL, SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE HIM...


PRACTICAL JUJUTSU DOJO

YEEEEEK!

HANADA!

GUH-HAH!

...

...AN...
T...

GI...

WEE WOO

WEE WOO

WEE WOO

SKRK...

...!

DRACT

NOBLE ELDER.

GRIN...

YOU HAVE A PHONE CALL FROM A MR. MOTOBE, SIR.

YEAH?

I BET OLD MOTOBE IS PANICKING LIKE HELL RIGHT NOW...

KEH HEH.

I BET THAT THREW YOU FOR A LOOP, IZO.

HOW ARE HANADA'S WOUNDS LOOKING?

IT'S IZO MOTOBE...

IS THIS MR. TOKUGAWA?

YOU *KNEW* ABOUT THIS?!

HIS ACTIONS FORCED A REAL BIGWIG TO STEP IN.

HANADA TOOK PRO WRESTLING *TOO* LIGHTLY.

A BIG-WIG?

AND THIS PERSON TOOK OUT HANADA?!

YUP... ONE THAT EVERYBODY KNOWS, IN FACT.

WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO ABOUT THE MATCH ?!

ANYONE WHO GETS BEAT IN A STREET FIGHT ISN'T FIT TO BE A REAL GRAPPLER.

JUST WHO ARE YOU MAKING HIM FIGHT?!

WHY, THE MAN WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT WILL BE FIGHTING BAKI, OF COURSE.

KK

...FIND OUT!

COME ON THE DAY OF THE EVENT AND YOU'LL...

HEL—

HELLO ?!

NGH...!

KA-SLAM

BEEP BEEP BEEP

DAMN SLY OLD CODGER...

IT'S FINE, MR. MOTOBE.

THAT'S THE GIST OF IT, RIGHT?

SO BASICALLY, NOW I'M UP AGAINST SOMEONE STRONGER THAN MR. HANADA....

DOESN'T MATTER WHAT KIND OF MONSTER HE IS, I'VE GOT TO WIN REGARDLESS.

THIS HAS TURNED INTO ONE HECK OF A REVENGE STORY, HUH? ♡

ゴオ

THE DAY OF THE EVENT...

GWOOOOOO

CHALLENGER DRESSING ROOM

DRESSING ROOM

BASEMENT FLOOR SIX

EVEN WITH THE AMOUNT OF RESTRAINT I SHOWED...

OSU. YOUR ROBE, SIR.

THEY SAY THAT HANADA IS IN PRETTY BAD SHAPE—IT'LL TAKE SIX MONTHS FOR HIS INJURIES TO HEAL.

TO THINK THAT YOU WOULD ACTUALLY COMPETE.

I KNOW YOU'RE STANDING RIGHT IN FRONT OF ME, BUT I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE MY EYES.

NO MATTER THE VENUE, THE PAYING FANS ALWAYS COME FIRST.

I'M SIMPLY SUBBING IN.

I SUPPOSE IT'S TIME TO GO.

NOW THEN...

THIS'LL BE THE FIRST AND FINAL BRAWL OF MY LIFE.

オオオオオオ WOOOOOO

オオオオオオオオオ WOOOOOOOO

WHOA-AAA!

IT'S TOBA !!!

HOLY CRAP! ARE YOU SERIOUS ?!

えええ WHUUUUH?! ?!

MOUNT TOBA HAS STEPPED INTO THE RING!!!

YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME!!!

青 竜

Baki the Grappler Vol. 2 (End)

THE GRAPPLER
AKIRA
THE GRAPPLER
AKIRA

BAKI
THE GRAPPLER

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